ACTION COMICS PIZAZZ

銀と金

福本伸行 2

「表」経済を喰いものにする
金まみれ紳士たちの
これが裏金脈だ!!

ACTION COMICS PIZAZZ

銀と金

欲望のスキマは俺たちの賭博場!!

2

福本伸行

双葉社

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▶定価……540円 本体514円

株式市場という舞台に壮大な"仕手戦略"の物語を書く男がいる。演じるのは実業家・政治家・闇の男たち——「表」と「裏」の人脈を巧妙に操る陰の大物の錬金術とは!?

恐怖の財テク地獄変

銀と金 2

福本伸行

第10話

THE DAY OF THE SHOWDOWN

FOUR DAYS AFTER THE MEETING BETWEEN THE SILVER KING AND UCHIMURA.

7:30 PM

AT THE HASEGAWA RESTAURANT.

AND, RIGHT OUTSIDE THAT HIGH CLASS RESTAURANT...

EVEN THOUGH IT'S IN AKASAKA, THE HASEGAWA HAS A STERLING REPUTATION.

THE SILVER KING AND HIS ASSOCIATES HAVE GATHERED!

TONIGHT'S OPERATION IS LIKE A HUNT!

THEY LURK IN THE DARKNESS, STALKING DEMONS.

...TO SHAKE THE VERY FOUNDATIONS OF TEIJITSU.

THOSE WORDS COULD BECOME WEIGHT HEAVY ENOUGH ...

THE TOPIC OF DISCUSSION IS THE DECAYING STRUCTURE OF WHAT WAS ONCE A SWEET RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN KAIDO AND TEIJITSU.

WHICH, IN TURN, MAKES IT VERY LIKELY HE'LL WIN HIS ASKING PRICE IN THE SPECULATION WAR WITH ASAHI.

BECAUSE TEIJITSU IS ASAHI'S MAIN BANK, IF THE SILVER KING CAN GAIN CONTROL OF TEIJITSU, HE'LL HOLD ASAHI IN THE PALM OF HIS HAND.

THESE THREE WILL GATHER HERE TODAY.

AND, THE CEO OF MARUSO REAL ESTATE, MARUISHI OSAMU

PRESIDENT OF THE TEIJITSU BANK, DOMON TAKERU

DIET MEMBER, KAIDO MASAYUKI

THIS OPERATION WILL BE A SUCCESS.

AND IF A TAPE CAN BE MADE OF THEIR CONVER-SATION...

A TRAP WAS SET HERE AT THE HASEGAWA.

A FEW DAYS AGO ...

TODAY IS THE DAY THAT DETERMINES WHETHER THEY'LL WIN OR LOSE IT ALL!

SO, IN OTHER WORDS, TO THE SILVER KING AND HIS ASSOCIATES ...

... ...

AND HAD HER SET UP A LISTENING DEVICE.

THEY BRIBED A WAITRESS ...

TO MAKE SURE EVERYTHING GOES ACCORDING TO PLAN.

NOW YASUDA AND FUNADA WAIT INSIDE ...

THEY'VE BEEN ON STAND-BY SINCE SIX O'CLOCK.

THEY'LL BE ABLE TO REACT ACCORDINGLY.

AT THE FIRST SIGN OF TROUBLE ...

AND KAIDO SHOWS UP AROUND 7:40 PM.

AT 7:20 PM, MARUISHI APPEARS...

HMM ...

--MASK THEIR INTENTIONS.

GUESS THEY'RE TRYING TO--

FOR SEP-ARATE TALKS.

BUT BOTH ARE LED TO DIFF-ERENT ROOMS.

WHEN THE PRESIDENT SHOWS UP, THEY'LL MOST LIKELY MEET IN THERE.

THERE'S AN EMPTY ROOM RIGHT HERE BETWEEN THEM.

THEY'LL MEET UP IN A LITTLE WHILE.

THEY SHOWED UP SEPARATELY JUST TO BE ON THE SAFE SIDE.

AND WE'LL GET ANYTHING THEY SAY LOUD AND CLEAR!

UNDER-STOOD.

WE'VE FIGURED OUT WHERE THEY'RE GONNA HOLD THE TALK.

EVERY-THING'S GOING GREAT, GIN-SAN.

...

...

HOW-EVER ...

AND THEN...

WITHOUT ANY SIGN OF DOMON.

EIGHT O'CLOCK CAME AND WENT ...

SHIT!

THEY'RE NOT HOLDING IT HERE AFTER ALL!

WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

THE OTHER TWO LEFT THEIR ROOMS!

CALM DOWN.

...
...

TO WHERE THEY'RE MEETING WITH DOMON!

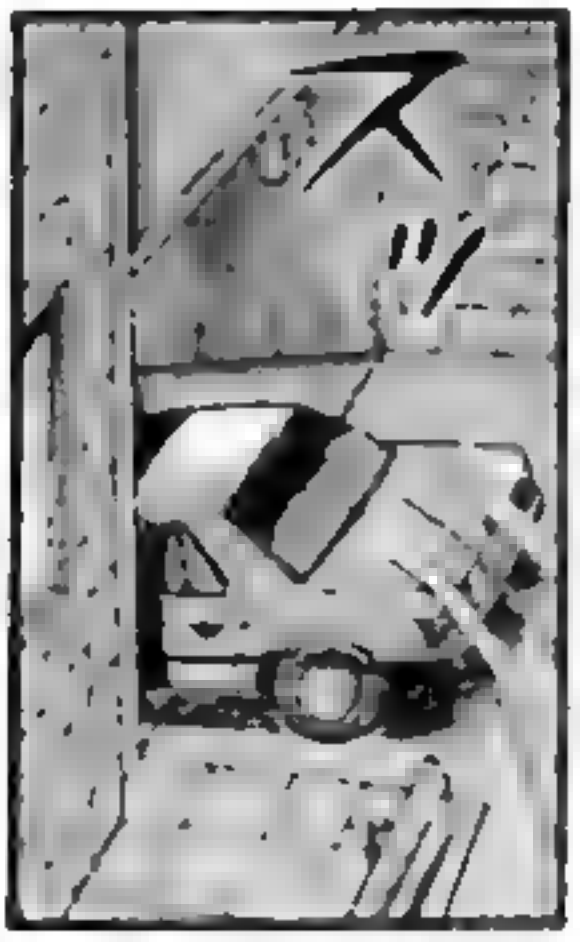
WE'LL FOLLOW THEM...

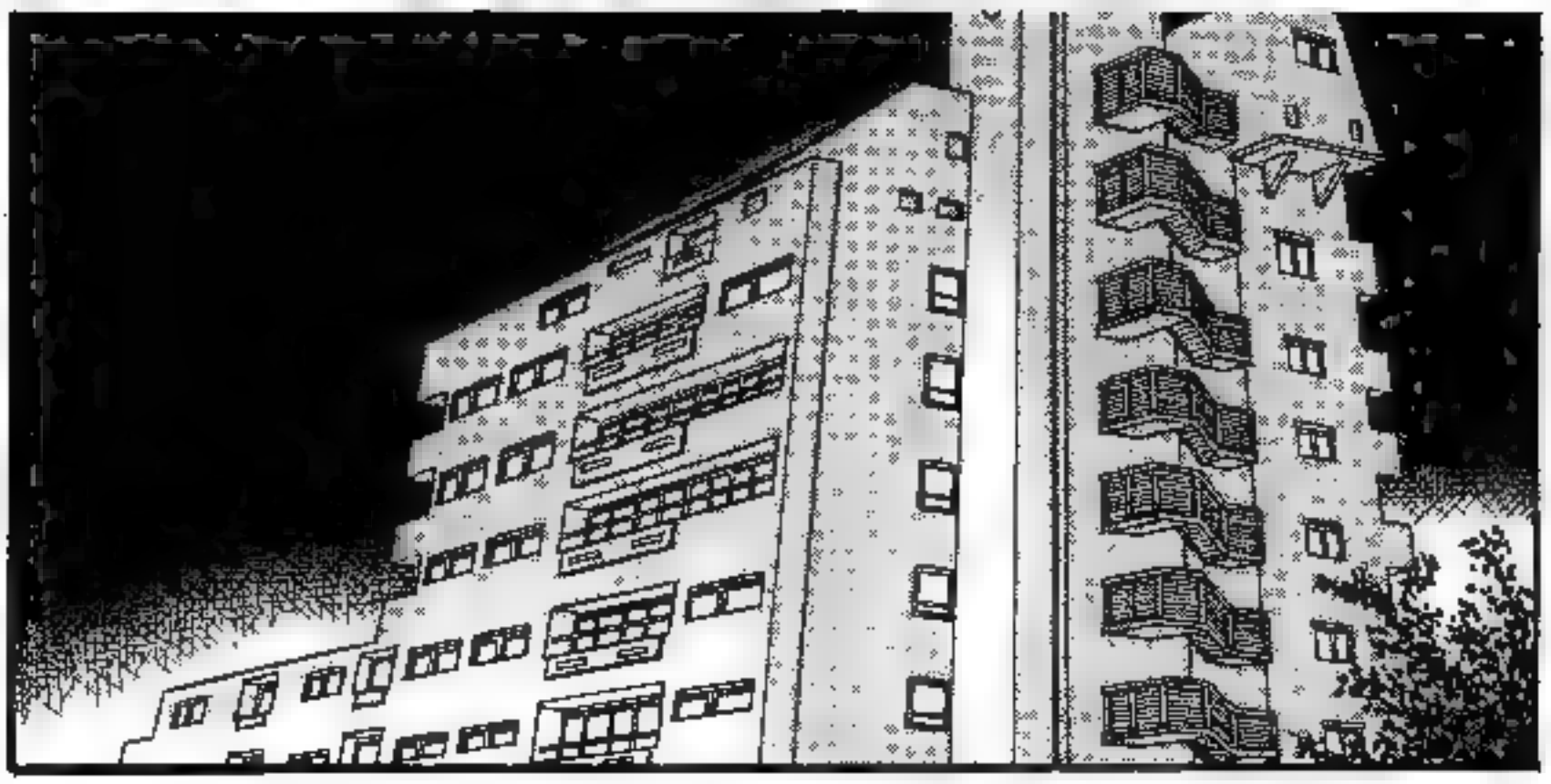
THEIR SCHEDULES DON'T LIE-- IT *HAS* TO BE TODAY.

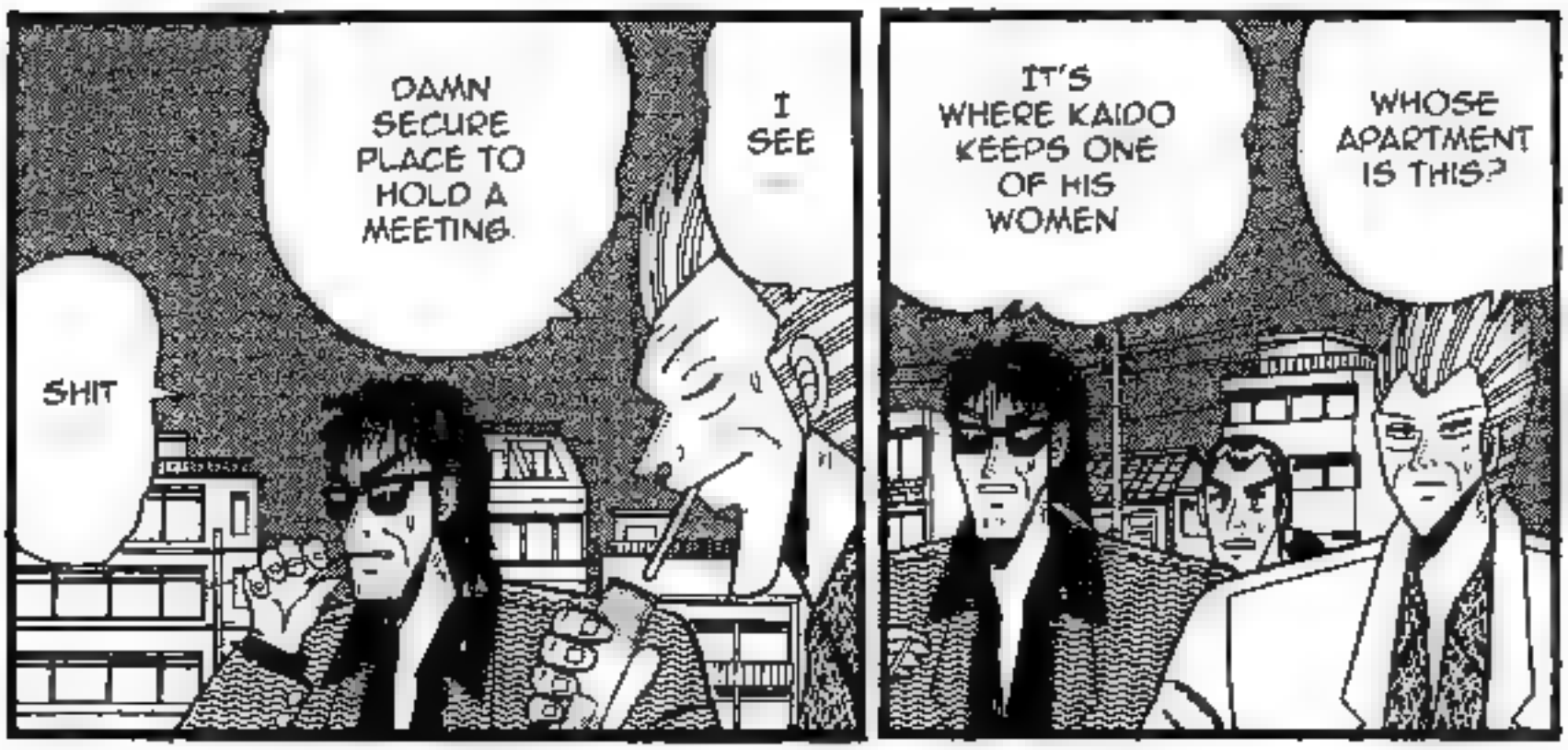
BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN WE'RE OFF THE RAILS YET!

YES, THIS WASN'T PART OF THE PLAN...

ブロロロ・・・






SHIT
DAMN SECURE PLACE TO HOLD A MEETING.
I SEE
IT'S WHERE KAIDO KEEPS ONE OF HIS WOMEN
WHOSE APARTMENT IS THIS?

BUT A STRANGER'S APARTMENT IS IMPOSSIBLE.
WHAT DO WE DO NOW?
IF IT WAS ANOTHER RESTAURANT, WE MIGHT HAVE BEEN ABLE TO SLIP A MIKE IN WHEN THEY ORDERED THE FOOD.
WE'RE FUCKED
..

I'LL THINK OF SOMETHING.

GIVE ME A SECOND.

SAY "IT'S ME" JUST ONCE

RING THE DOORBELL. IF SOMEONE ANSWERS. .

?

FORTY MINUTES LATER..

403

I'LL TAKE CARE OF THE REST

OKAY

MORITA

ピンポーン

...
WHO
IS
IT?

PUSH

[CLICK]

IT'S
ME

ス
ッ
!

カチャッ..

CAN I ...HELP YOU?

...
...

...?

I JUST WANT TO SAY SOMETHING ...

SO I STOPPED BY TO CHAT ABOUT IT!

I HEARD THE PEOPLE INVOLVED WERE HAVING A LITTLE MEETING ..

I KNOW THAT PRESIDENT DOMON HAS BEEN FUNNELING KAIDO MILLIONS OF YEN.

IT'S PRETTY IMPRESSIVE, REALLY!

WHA

HEY, YOU IN THERE!

DO I NEED TO REPEAT MYSELF LOUDER?!

WE DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO DISCUSS WITH THE LIKES OF YOU!

GET THE HELL OUT OF HERE!

WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?

...

..

SORRY, BUT I DON'T NEGOTIATE WITH LACKIES!

SO ONE OF YOU FINALLY SHOWS YOUR FACE

HEH HEH

CEO OF MARUSO, MARUISH OSAMU

I WANT TO SPEAK DIRECTLY TO THE PRESIDENT OF TEIJTSU!

HE DOESN'T EVEN KNOW IF THE PRESIDENT IS INSIDE!

BUT ...

GIN-SAN WON'T LET THIS GO WITHOUT A FIGHT!

HE'S TRICKING THEM INTO GIVING US INFOR-MATION!

LIKE WE HAVEN'T DEALT WITH PEOPLE LIKE YOU BEFORE!

WHO DO YOU THINK

ざわ・・・

GET THE HELL OUT!

LET ME SPELL IT OUT FOR YOU.

BEAT IT!

OF COURSE.

NOT TOO BRIGHT, ARE YOU?

..

IS LIKE SAYING YOU'VE GOT A DEATH WISH!

MESSING WITH US...

GYAAA AAH!

UGK ..

KYAAAAAAAAAH!

I'VE BEEN WILLING TO RISK MY LIFE ALL ALONG, MARUISHI-SAN.

AHH...AHHH...

...

UEGH ..

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, MARUISHI-KUN?

PRESIDENT OF TEIJITSU BANK, DOMON TAKERU

WHAT'S GOING ON?!

MY APOLOGIES FOR THE MISUNDER-STANDING

SIR ...

WHO ARE YOU?!

WHAT DID YOU DO TO HIM?!

ALL I WANT IS TO HAVE A PEACEFUL D SCuSSION

I DIDN'T COME HERE TO PROVOKE A FIGHT

SO I HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO BECOME MORE FORCEFUL IN MY APPROACH.

I'M AFRAID HE REFUSED TO LISTEN TO WHAT I HAD TO SAY.

I'D MUCH RATHER AVOID SENSELESS VIOLENCE.

SO, PLEASE, OPEN THE DOOR.

PRESIDENT DOMON.

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第11話

A DISHONORABLE LAST FRONTIER

...
...

PLEASE OPEN THE DOOR.

ALL RIGHT. I'LL LISTEN TO WHAT YOU HAVE TO SAY!

...
...

WHAT'S THE MATTER?

THERE'S NO WAY TO RESOLVE THIS IMPASSE WITHOUT DISCUSSION.

PRESI-DENT DOMON
..

HUH?

DON'T LET THEM IN'

SIR'

GRK
...

TOO LATE.

DAMN

WE'RE ALREADY INSIDE.

ガチャッ

ヒ゜

!!

...

...

...

HEH
HEH
...

AND YOU DON'T EVEN BOTHER TO CHECK ON HIM.

ONE OF YOUR COMPANIONS SUDDENLY SCREAMS OUT IN PAIN...

AS THE RUMORS SAY

YOU'RE JUST AS BAD.

DISGUST-ING.

THERE'S NO ROOM IN THAT HEAD OF YOURS FOR ANYTHING BUT YOURSELF.

DON'T TRY TO PLAY THE VILLAIN.

A WORD OF ADVICE

YOU'RE NOT CUT OUT FOR IT.

...
...

JUST YOUR AVERAGE, RUN-OF-THE-MILL COWARD.

YOU'RE PATHETIC.

NONE OF YOUR ALLEGATIONS HAVE ANY PROOF!

YOU BAST-ARD!

SHUT UP!

ALL YOU CAN DO IS HIDE BEHIND TEIJITSU'S INFLUENCE.

YOU WANT PROOF?

HEH HEH ..

SO SHUT YOUR MOUTH BEFORE WE DO IT FOR YOU!

HE LEFT SOMETHING HERE FOR US A FEW DAYS AGO

THIS GIRL'S BOYFRIEND WORKS FOR US.

JUST SO YOU KNOW..

HUH?

THIS!

ﾅﾅﾅ...

ざわ‥ ざわ‥

I'D BE MORE THAN HAPPY TO SELL YOU THE TAPE.

THIS IS CRAZY!

THE TIME FOR EXCUSES HAS PASSED, SIR.

IF I WERE YOU, I'D JUST OWN UP TO THE FACT THAT YOU'VE BEEN SLIPPING KAIDO MONEY UNDER THE TABLE.

ALL HE DID WAS HOLD THE MIKE IN HIS HAND...

AND PRETEND IT WAS HIDDEN IN THE VASE.

...
...

FROM THE MOMENT YOU STEPPED IN HERE.

WE'VE RECORDED EVERYTHING

HE MUST HAVE HAD THE MIKE ON HIM...

BECAUSE WE'VE NEVER BEEN IN THIS ROOM BEFORE!

HE'S BLUFF-ING!

...

SIR!

...HOW MUCH DO YOU WANT?

...

BUT...

IF WE CAN TAKE CARE OF THIS WITH MONEY...

WE CAN'T ALLOW THIS TO REACH THE GENERAL PUBLIC.

WE DON'T HAVE A CHOICE.

WE DON'T EVEN KNOW IF THIS SUPPOSED TAPE EXISTS YET!

BUT LET'S NOT BE TOO HASTY!

YOU'RE ABSOLUTELY RIGHT.

...

...

I THINK THIS "TAPE" IS A BUNCH OF NONSENSE

MAKING A BIG SCENE IS JUST PART OF THEIR ACT.

IF THEY REALLY HAVE A TAPE LIKE THAT, WHY WOULD THEY COME RUSHING OVER HERE IN PERSON?

THEY'RE TRYING TO TRICK US.

IT'S BECAUSE THEY *DON'T* HAVE ONE!

...

...

SHIT...!

ざわ ざわ..

LOOKS LIKE YOUR SENSE FOR BULLSHIT IS THE ONLY THING THAT WORKS PROPERLY.

HEH HEH ...

IT'S ALL OVER...

HE SAW THROUGH EVERY-THING...

THE FIRST PERSON I SAW WAS THAT WOMAN OVER THERE.

WHEN I CAME TO THE DOOR ...

THAT DOESN'T MEAN MUCH, CONSIDERING HOW FAR I GOT, THOUGH.

THERE'S ONLY ONE REASON SHE'D BE RELIEVED TO SEE AN EVIL-LOOKING BASTARD LIKE ME.

AND THE MOMENT SHE SAW MY FACE, SHE LOOKED RELIEVED.

ざわ..

...
...

HAVING YOUR LOVER SHOW UP WHILE YOUR PATRON IS HERE WOULD BE HORRIBLE.

AND THAT'S BECAUSE IT *WASN'T* HER BOY-FRIEND.

BUT, KAIDO ...

DIDN'T QUITE WORK OUT, THOUGH ...

AND WHEN THAT HAPPENED...

HEH HEH ..

I DECIDED TO USE THE SITUATION TO MY ADVANTAGE

WHAT ABOUT *THIS* TAPE?

EH?

HUH?

...?

I THINK YOU'LL FIND IT INTEREST-ING.

HAVE A LISTEN.

キュルキュル：カチャ…

"THE TIME FOR EXCUSES HAS PASSED, SIR."

"IF I WERE YOU, I'D JUST OWN UP TO THE FACT THAT YOU'VE BEEN SLIPPING KAIDO MONEY UNDER THE TABLE."

AH!

"...HOW MUCH DO YOU WANT?"

WATCH IT
HOLD IT RIGHT THERE, YOU YOU !

HEH HEH HEH ...

SIR!

SLIPPERY BAST-ARD!

YOU SHOULD BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU SAY EVEN WHEN YOU THINK YOU HAVE EVERYTHING UNDER CONTROL.

ANY EXECUTIVE WORTH ANYTHING SHOULD ALREADY KNOW THAT

THAT WAS STUPID OF YOU.

EXACTLY WHAT WE HOPED YOU'D DO

SORRY CAN'T LET YOU HAVE THIS ONE

HEH HEH ..

GRK ...

GET THE HELL OUT OF THERE!

IS THAT YOU, TATSU-MI?!

SOME SHADY-LOOKING GUYS JUST PULLED UP!

TATSUMI HERE.

HEY.

...
...

?

LOOKS LIKE WE'VE GOT COMPANY.

GINJI ...

HM?

WHAT?

HEH HEH HEH ...

YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO TAKE ONE STEP OUT OF THIS APARTMENT!

IT'S OVER!

YOU'RE TRAPPED LIKE RATS!

I CALLED IOKA INDUSTRY'S PERSONAL TROOPS BEFORE YOU FORCED YOUR WAY IN.

YES?

MORITA ...

カチャ

WHAT? WHY?

TAKE THIS...

IT'S ALSO THE ONLY THING THAT ENSURES OUR SAFETY.

WE WORKED HARD TO GET OUR HANDS ON THIS TAPE.

SO EVEN IF THEY SEE YOU ON THE ELEVATOR, YOU HAVE THE BEST CHANCE OF GETTING AWAY

THAT'S ...

YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE HERE THAT CAN PASS AS A REGULAR CIVILIAN.

WE HAVE TO DO EVERYTHING IN OUR POWER TO SAVE IT.

IF WE LET IT GET TAKEN NOW, WE LOSE ANY ABILITY TO NEGOTIATE.

...!

THEY'LL BE HERE ANY MINUTE!

THERE'S NO TIME TO WASTE!

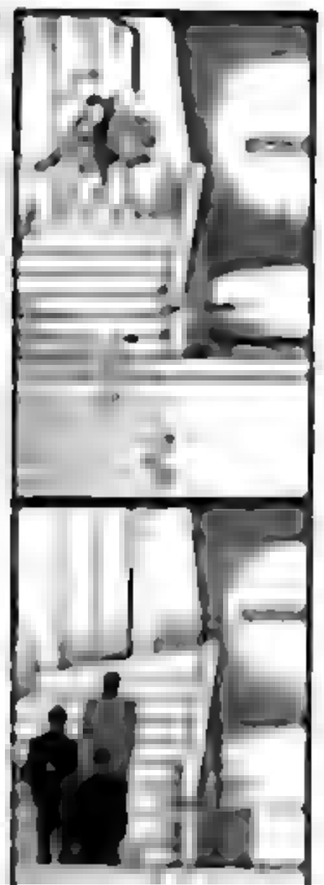
BUT IF THEY CATCH YOU, THEY'LL TRY TO SILENCE YOU TOO.

IF YOU GET AWAY WITH THIS TAPE, YOU COULD SAVE US ALL.

HUH?!

HUSH!

HOW AM I GONNA GET OUT OF HERE?!
I'M TRAPP-ED!



HOW DID THIS HAPPEN?

ウィーン

WHAT SHOULD I DO?!

F"...

銀と金◆第11話◆完

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DO-OR-DIE ESCAPE

WHAT SHOULD I DO?

スッ…

ウィーニ…

DID YOU SEE ANYONE ON THE WAY?

NO

THEN LET'S GO

TAKING THE STAIRS IS TOO VISIBLE

I'LL TAKE THE ELE-

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2 3 4 5 6 7

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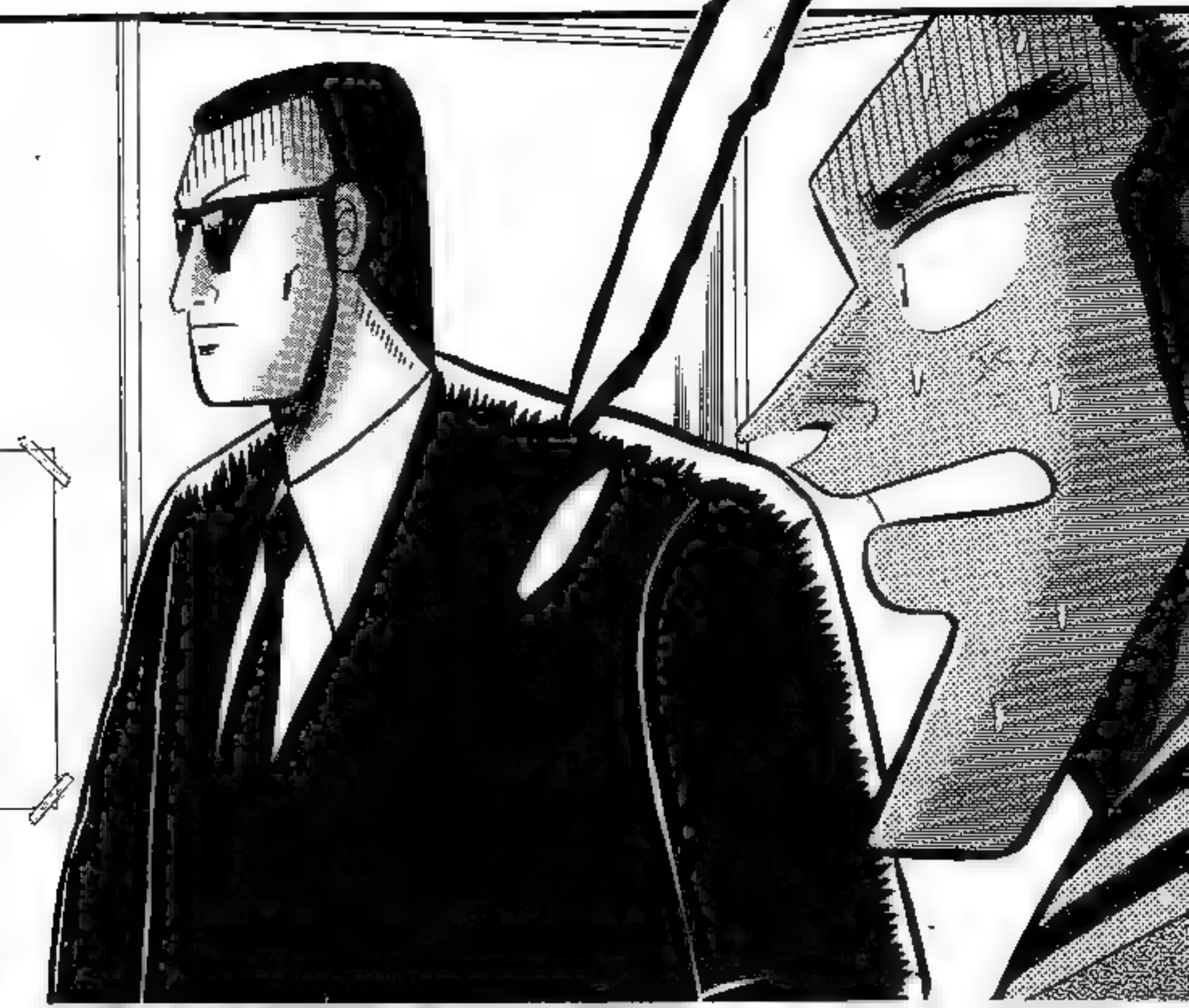


I HAVE TO GET ON!

THEY LEFT ONE INSIDE!

IT'S TOO SUSPI-CIOUS IF I DON'T!

THE FRONT DOOR...

HMM...

CALM DOWN!

...
...

...
...

KAIDO FINISHED HIS CALL...

...RIGHT AS WE GOT IN...

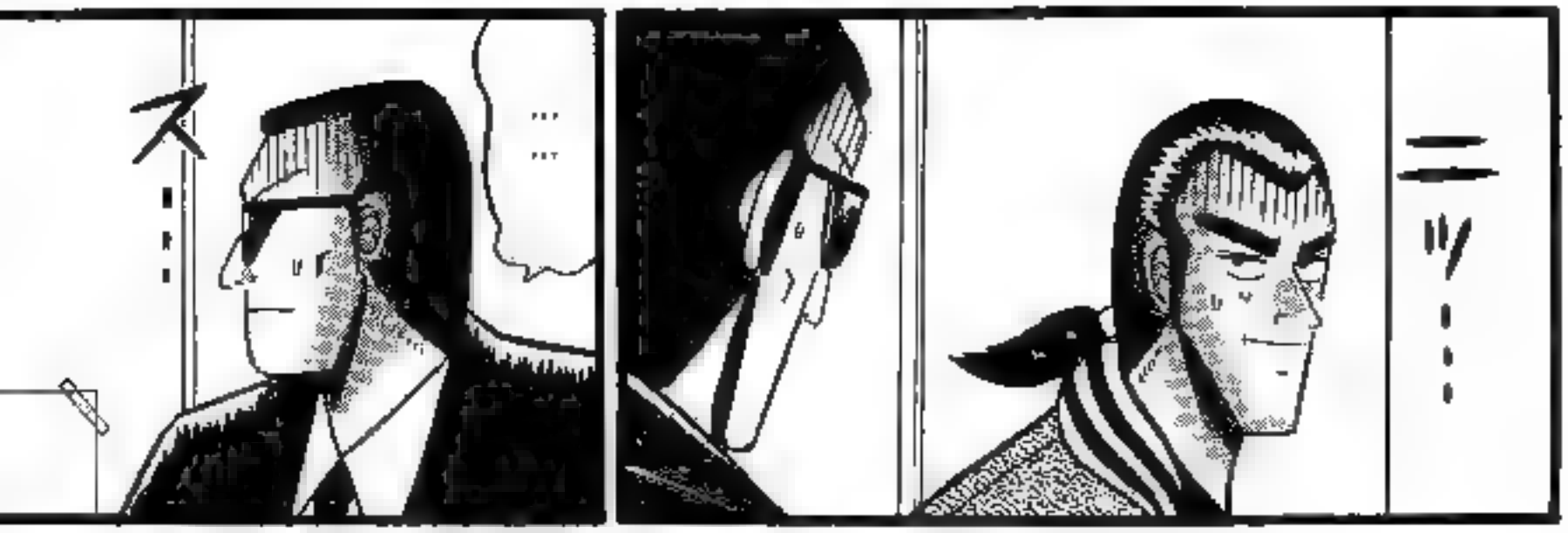
JUST THINK ABOUT IT!

THERE'S NOTHING TO BE AFRAID OF.

SO THEY DON'T KNOW ABOUT THIS TAPE OR THAT I MANAGED TO ESCAPE!

THERE WAS NO TIME FOR HIM TO CALL THEM AFTER EVERYTHING HAPPENED.

I JUST HAVE TO RELAX AND MAKE SURE THEY DON'T FIND ME SUSPICIOUS.



THIS GUY DOESN'T EVEN KNOW THE MEANING OF INTUITION!
THANK GOD!

WHAT AN IDIOT!
...
...

AND I'M HOME FREE!
ALL I HAVE TO DO IS MEET WITH YASUDA-SAN...

LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!

ﾌﾟﾐｭ…

HUH?

SHIT
...

THEY GOT YASUDA-SAN AND FUNADA-SAN!

GO!

...

...

THAT GUY I MET IN THE ELEVATOR SHOULD GET TO THE ROOM ANY MINUTE NOW.

I DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME LEFT!

AND I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO!

I'LL BE THE ONLY ONE TO ESCAPE...

BUT THAT MEANS

HE'S TELL-ING ME TO RUN?

GO!

IF YOU RUN TOWARDS A CONFINED AREA, YOUR OPTIONS ARE LIMITED.

BUT IF YOU RUN TOWARDS THE MAIN ROAD.

YOU MADE THE RIGHT DECISION NOT TO GO AROUND THE BACK!

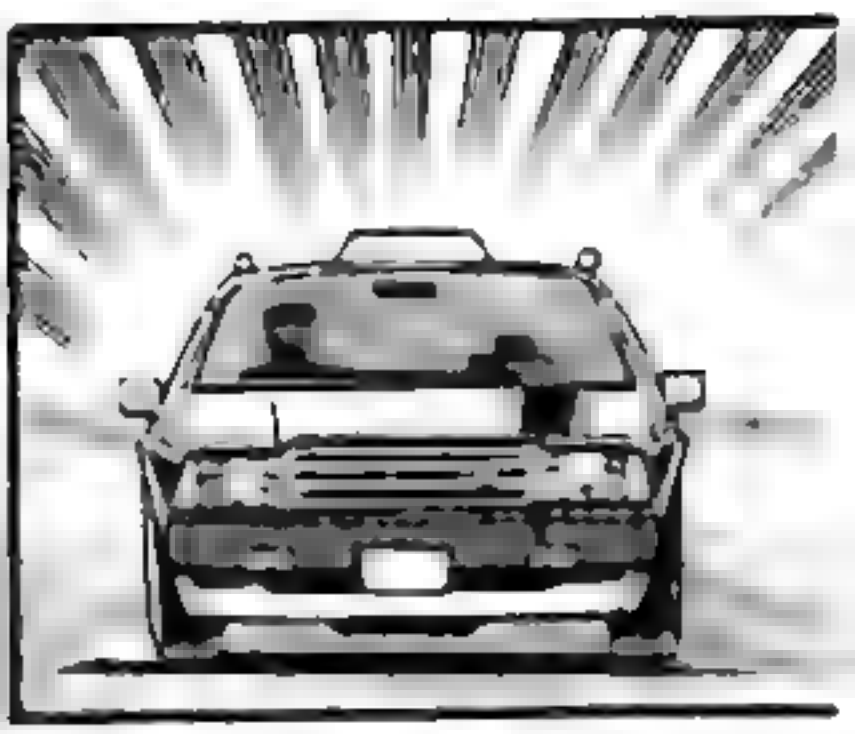
GOOD CHOICE!

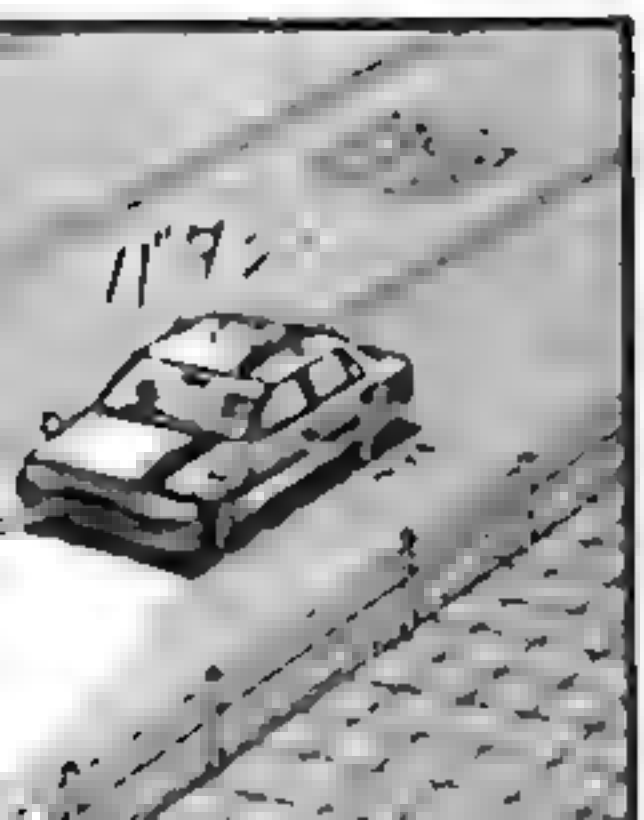
MORI-TA...

YOU'LL MAKE IT!

AND WITH A LITTLE LUCK ...

YOU HAVE YOUR PICK OF ESCAPE ROUTES!

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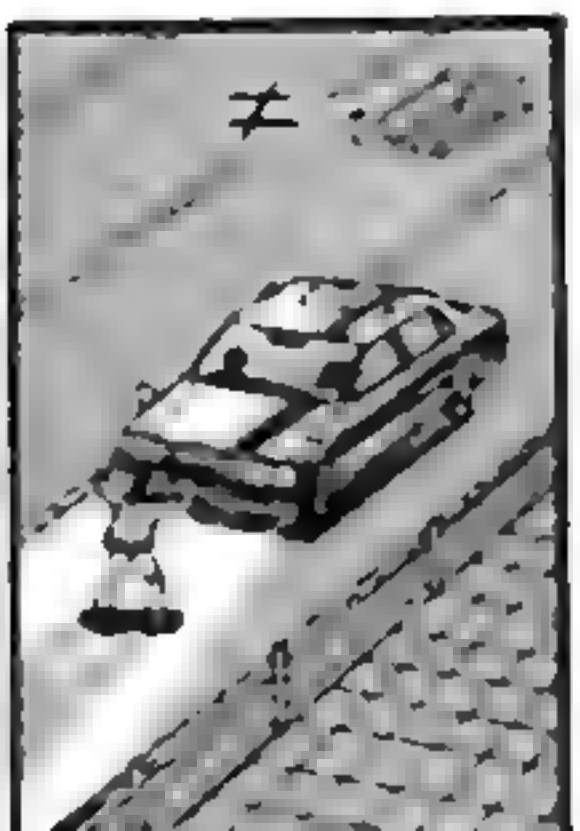
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OF ALL THE LUCK!

WAS JUST WAITING FOR HIM TO MAKE UP HIS MIND.

ALMOST LIKE ...

IT'S LIKE THAT TAXI...

LET'S SEE HOW FAR HIS LUCK WILL TAKE US!

THIS IS GETTING INTER-ESTING!

I JUST KNOW IF A GUY LIKE ME TRIED THE SAME THING

CALL IT LUCK OR WHATEVER YOU WANT

I COULD DO IT A MILLION TIMES AND IT'D NEVER HAPPEN

SOMETHING OUT THERE IS WATCHING OVER HIM!

WE'RE COUNTING ON YOU, MORITA!

..

AHH

SHIN-JUKU

DESTI-NATION?

I DON'T KNOW WHAT I CAN DO, ALL BY MYSELF..

HOW AM I GOING TO SAVE EVERYONE?

WHAT SHOULD I DO NOW?

BUT DOMON AND KAIDO HAVE ALL THE MANPOWER AND EXPERIENCE BACKING THEM UP...

WOULD THEY EVEN TAKE AN AMATEUR LIKE ME SERIOUSLY?

SHOULD I TRY TO DO AN EXCHANGE?

THE ONLY THING I'VE GOT IS THIS TAPE...

HUH?

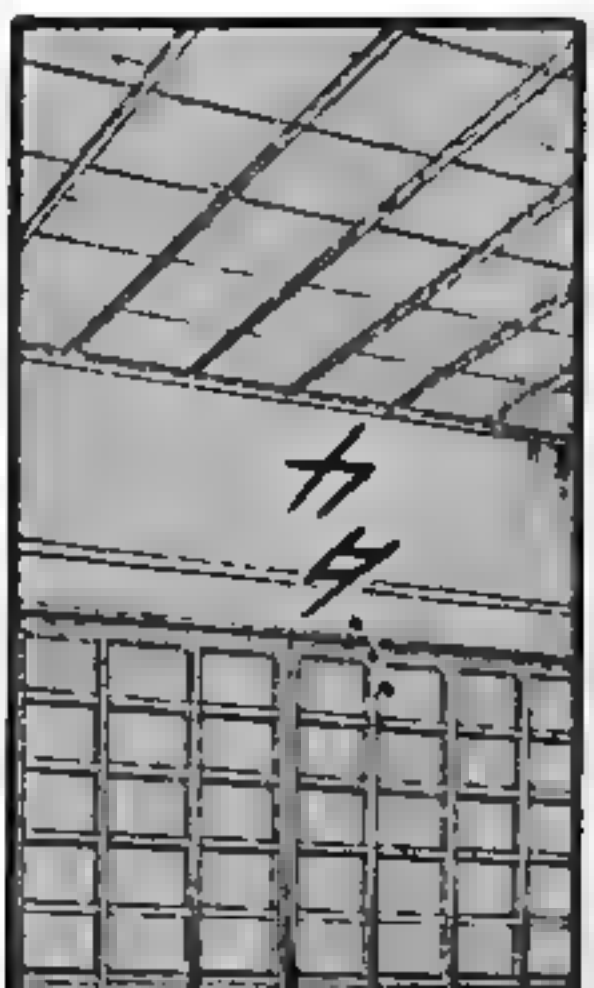
I WANT TO GO TO AKASAKA!

I'VE CHANGED MY MIND ABOUT SHINJUKU!

HM?

DRIVER!

カラ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UMEYA-SAN

YOU SCARED THE SHIT OUTTA ME!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

MORI-TA?

?

I NEED YOU TO INTRODUCE ME TO A POLITICIAN!

I NEED YOU TO INTRODUCE ME TO SOMEONE WITH ENOUGH POWER TO DEAL WITH THEM!

THEY'RE WORKING FOR KAIDO AND TEIJITSU

GIN-SAN RAN INTO SOME TROUBLE TONIGHT HE'S BEEN TAKEN HOSTAGE BY YAKUZA.

HUH?

GONNA BE AT *LEAST* THREE HUNDRED MILLION

IF THE YAKUZA ARE INVOLVED THEY'RE GONNA WANT TO AVOID STICKING THEIR NOSE IN

LESSEE

AND IF I'M GONNA TAKE EFFECT ON THE 8 DAYS FIVE HUNDRED MILLION TO A BILLION

I'LL PAY IT

ｶﾀｶﾀ

...

JUST LISTEN TO IT

THIS TAPE IS WORTH ABOUT THAT MUCH.

...

THANK YOU SO MUCH!

AS LONG AS THERE'S SOMETHING IN IT FOR THEM, YOU'RE GOOD.

BUT IF IT'S WORTH THAT MUCH MONEY..

I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S ON THIS TAPE...

I THINK I CAN GET SOMEONE TO HEAR YOU OUT.

..TO SOME-THING AS DIRTY AS BRIBES.

I REALLY DIDN'T WANT TO RESORT ...

..

...

SAVING GIN-SAN IS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING RIGHT NOW!

BUT THERE'S NOTHING ELSE I CAN DO!

MY TOMORROW DIES WITH HIM!

IF GIN-SAN DIES...

銀と金◆第⑫話◆完

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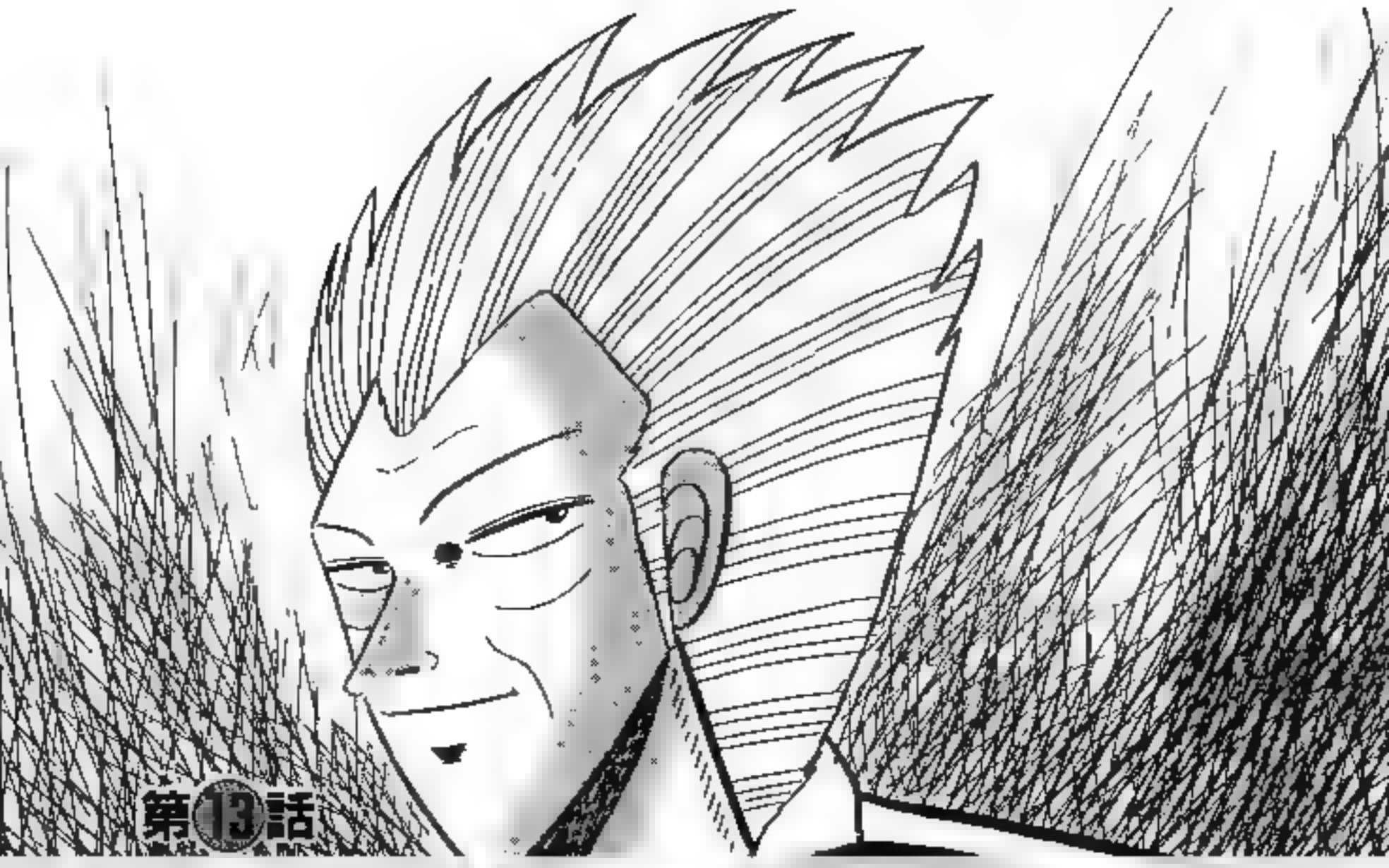
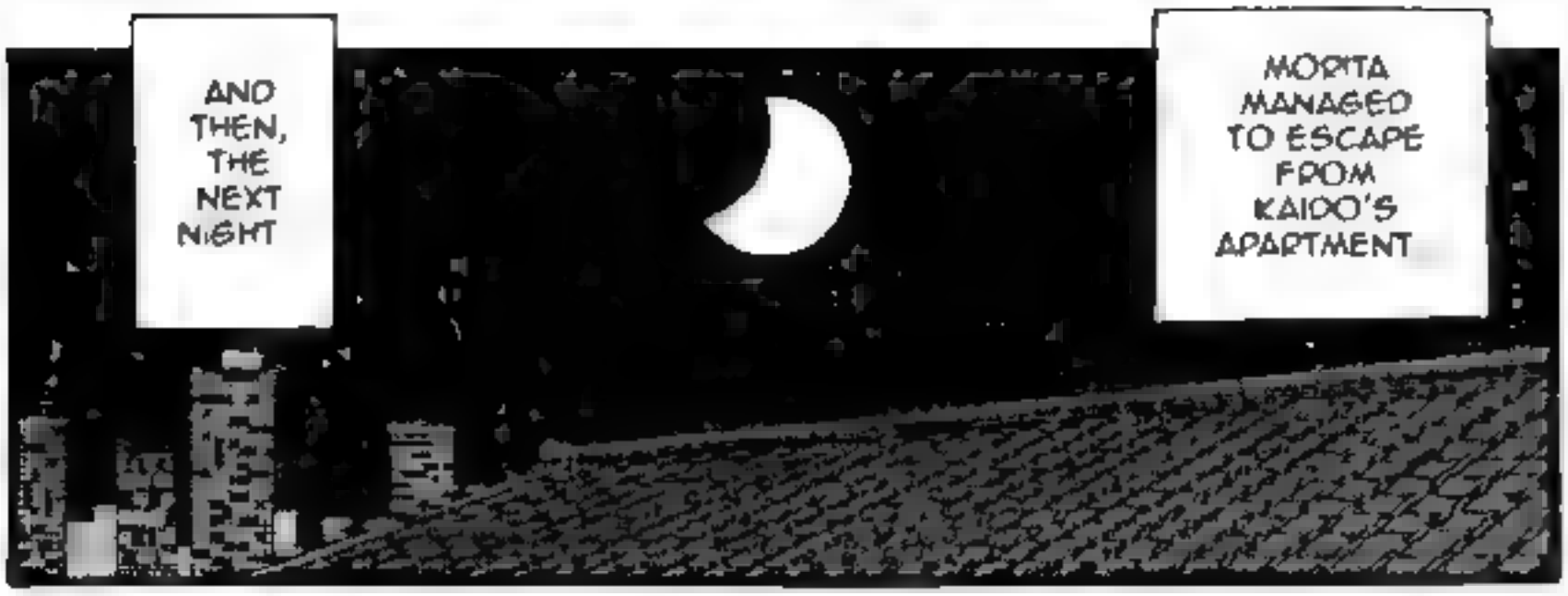


A MAKE-OR-BREAK DEAL



*Note: This would make him in the political party opposing Kaido's party.

WE'RE IN EQUAL STANDING HERE!

I'M NOT INTERESTED IN KISSING HIS ASS!

THIS IS A BUSINESS TRANS-ACTION!

I'M NOT HERE TO WINE AND DINE THE GUY!

THIS WAY, SIR.

YOU DON'T REALLY THINK--

HEY, WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!

...

HE'S HERE!

SECOND IN COMMAND OF THE TAKEMOTO GROUP...
IWAZA ATSUSHI
...

DON'T BE NER-VOUS

NOW'S NOT THE TIME TO GET SCARED...

...TO SAVE EVERY-ONE.
I'M DOING THIS...

...

...BUT THE REASON WE INVITED YOU HERE TODAY...

I'M SURE YOU'VE ALREADY SPOKEN TO UMEYA-SAN ...

PLEASE LISTEN.

IS THIS TAPE, WHICH IS EV DENCE OF JNDER-THE-TABLE DEA..S THAT PRES DENT DOMON AND KAIDO MASAYUKI HAVE BEEN ENGAG.NG IN.

"PLEASE OPEN THE DOOR.."

"CLICK"

"ALL RIGHT I'LL LISTEN TO WHAT YOU HAVE TO SAY!"

"THE TIME FOR EXCUSES HAS PASSED, SIR."

"SIR!"

"IF I WERE YOU, I'D JUST OWN UP TO THE FACT THAT YOU'VE BEEN SLIPPING KAIDO MONEY UNDER THE TABLE."

I SEE ...

...!

"...HOW MUCH DO YOU WANT?"

チャリ

...

THAT'S CERTAINLY THEIR VOICES.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

SO ...

VERY INTER-ESTING ...

...
...

HEH HEH ...

I'LL MAKE SURE KAIDO RELEASES THE SILVER-WHATEVER AND HIS LITTLE GANG.

.. WITHIN THE NEXT FEW DAYS OR SO

I'LL HANDLE THINGS FROM HERE.

YESSIR!

UMEYA ..

HMMM ..

THANK YOU VERY MUCH, SIR!

YESSIR!

I'LL JUST TAKE THAT TAPE FOR...

NOTHING WILL HAPPEN TO THEM.

DON'T WORRY, KID.

...

WHY THE FUCK WOULD I GIVE YOU THIS TAPE?

YOU'RE KIDDING, RIGHT?

YOU THINK THIS IS SOMETHING I CAN LEAVE TO HIM, "WHEN HE GETS AROUND TO IT"?!

I'M NOT A GOD-DAMN IDIOT!

I'M RIGHT, AREN'T I?

W-WHAT ARE YOU...

LIKE *HELL* I'M GOING TO HAND OVER GIN-SAN'S LIFELINE

BASED ON NOTHING BUT A VERBAL PROMISE!

AND IWAZA HASN'T DONE JACK EXCEPT TALK!

THIS TAPE IS THE ONLY THING I'VE GOT TO SAVE THEM!

FIRST OF ALL...

IWAZA-SAN!

GOT THAT?!

NO SHIT, SHER-LOCK!

LOOKS LIKE YOU DON'T HAVE MUCH FAITH IN ME...

WELL, WELL ...

CALL THEM RIGHT NOW!

HUH?

ガチャ!

...

AND BRING ALL OF THEM HERE!

TELL KAIDO TO RELEASE THEM...

THIS IS THE BEST WAY TO GET THINGS DONE!

THE ONLY FAIR THING TO DO!

I'LL PUSH AS MUCH AS I HAVE TO!

YOU CAN'T PUSH THINGS LIKE THIS ...

THE ONLY THING I'LL TRADE THIS TAPE FOR IS ALL OF MY FRIENDS.

MORITA ..

IS THE SAME AS HAVING THEIR LIVES IN MY HANDS.

HAVING THIS TAPE ...

AND IT'S THE ONLY WAY I M HANDING OVER THIS TAPE!

I CAN'T BACK DOWN!

I DON'T CARE WHO I'M UP AGAINST!

HUH?

I JUST HAVE TO CALL THEM HERE, RIGHT?

... FINE.

AND THEN

IWAZA CALLED KAIDO...

HUH? REALLY?

THEY'VE BEEN RELEASED

HMM...

AND SPOKE TO HIM FOR ABOUT FIVE MINUTES

YOU HAPPY NOW?

THEY SHOULD BE HERE IN ABOUT HALF AN HOUR

EVERYTHING SEEMED TO BE GOING *TOO* WELL ...

MORITA WAS WORRIED.

IN ABOUT THIRTY MINUTES ...

BUT ...

AND, SURE ENOUGH
ブロロロ…

MORITA NOTICED HOW HURRIED IWAZA SEEMED.

REALLY ?!

AT THAT MOMENT

I'LL BE TAKING THIS!

GIN-SAN!
ﾀﾞｯ

THAT'S RIGHT.

YOU MADE A DEAL?

INSTEAD OF DUKING IT OUT AS ENEMIES, WHY NOT WORK TOGETHER AND JUST SACRIFICE ASAHI?

I SEE ..

WHILE THEY WERE HOLDING US HOSTAGE, WE TALKED THINGS OVER AND MADE THEM SEE IT OUR WAY.

WHAT KIND OF DEAL?

WELL, YOU SEE..

THAT TAPE ENDED UP BEING OUR BARGAINING CHIP.

AT THE DISCUSS-ION ...

HUH?

AND ALL OF THEM AGREED TO THROW ASAHI TO THE WOLVES.

IWAZA GOT AN IDEA OF WHAT WAS GOING ON FROM YOU...

... ..

AND THEN IWAZA GOT INVOLVED. SO IT BECAME A "PICK YOUR POISON" SORT OF THING

THE TAPE WAS WITH YOU, SO THEY COULDN'T FORCE US TO JUST HAND IT OVER TO KAIDO.

THAT'S RIGHT.

OUR BARGAIN-ING CHIP?

NOT TO MENTION, HE HAD NO WAY OF KNOWING IF *YOU* HAD MADE COPIES OR ANYTHING.

KAIDO WANTED TO AVOID GIVING IWAZA ANY DIRT HE COULD USE AGAINST HIM.

THANKS TO THAT ...

EXACTLY.

THEY WOULD HAVE DONE IT JUST BECAUSE WE ***HAD*** IT?

THEN ...

I DIDN'T HAVE TO OFFER THE TAPE TO GET YOU GUYS OUT ..

IN SHORT, IT WAS JUST TOO RISKY TO PISS OFF ANYONE THAT MIGHT HAVE A COPY OF THAT TAPE.

THAT'S WHY IT WAS IMPORTANT FOR US TO HOLD ON TO IT.

POLITICIANS ARE MASTERS OF DOUBLE TALK AND SLIMY TACTICS SO IT'S NO SURPRISE HE MANAGED TO WEASEL IT OUT OF YOUR HANDS

HAAA

THAT'S RIGHT THEY ALL ARE.

THAT DIRTY BASTARD

THIS IS THE TAPE PLAYER I USED WITH IWAZA.

I SET A TRAP, JUST TO BE ON THE SAFE SIDE.

HUH?

I'M RELIEVED

I CONNECTED THE SPEAKER WIRES TO THIS CASSETTE PLAYER.

RIGHT HERE.

LOOK AT THE BACK.

IT LOOKS LIKE IT'S PLAYING EVEN THOUGH THE SOUND ISN'T CONNECTED.

SO THAT WHEN YOU PUT A TAPE IN THE LARGER ONE...

WHEN I PLAYED IT FOR HIM, I HIT PLAY ON BOTH THE LARGE DECK AND THE SMALL ONE AT THE SAME TIME.

THE ONE TAPED TO THE BACK, OF COURSE.

THEN... THE TAPE YOU PLAYED FOR IWAZA WAS...?

SO THAT MEANS THE TAPE IS...

DID IT...

YOU ...

ざわ・

SAFE AND SOUND!

やっ!!

HA HA HA ...

WHEN IT RAINS, IT POURS!

I KNEW THERE WAS A REASON WE KEPT THE KID AROUND!

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第14話

A COMPLEX MYSTERY DRAMA

AND SO, TEIJITSU BANK JOINED FORCES WITH THE SILVER KING

A FEW DAYS AFTER-WARDS

AND REQUESTED A SHAREHOLDERS MEETING WITH THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

THE SILVER KING CALLED ASAHI.

WITH ALL THE INFORM-AT ON THAT HAS BEEN GATHERED

IT WILL BE THE DECIDING FACTOR!

THE SILVER KING'S FACTION'S MAIN STRENGTH IS IN HOW THEY MANAGED TO BRING TEIJITSU OVER TO THEIR SIDE.

HE'S FINALLY READY TO TAKE ASAHI HEAD ON!

GAJA

SEND HIM IN.

SIR, HIRAI-SAMA HAS ARRIVED.

RIGHT THIS WAY

THIS IS THE FINAL SHOW-DOWN!

The Board of Directors

I FEEL LIKE STANDING

GO AHEAD AND SIT DOWN, MORITA.

PLEASE, TAKE A SEAT.

THANK YOU

ALL OF ASAHI'S BOARD MEMBERS ARE HERE!

...
...

YOU'RE THE CHIEF SHAREHOLDER, HIRAI-SAMA, CORRECT?

THIS FEELS LIKE SOME SORT OF DISPLAY OF POWER.

THERE'S THAT SENSE OF..

NOT ONLY THAT...

IT DOESN'T FEEL LIKE THEY'RE TAKING THIS MEETING WITH US SERIOUSLY.

THIS ROOM... I GET THE FEELING IT'S JUST A LOW END STAFF ROOM.

THEY THINK WE'RE TRASH.

ON THE INSIDE ...

OR HOW POLITE THEY ACT...

NO MATTER WHAT SORT OF EXPRESSION THEY PUT ON THEIR FACES..

THEY'RE "TOO GOOD" FOR US.

GIN-SAN AND I ARE SOMETHING DISGUSTING THEY HAVE TO SCRAPE OFF THEIR SHOES.

IT'S MORE LIKE, AS PEOPLE.

Ooo

SO I DON'T EXPECT THEM TO WELCOME US WITH OPEN ARMS.

THIS IS BASICALLY A CONFRONTATION BETWEEN SPECULATORS AND THE COMPANY.

Ooo

THAT'S NOT THE PROBLEM.

Ooo

WE CALLED THIS MEETING OF THE BOARD AT YOUR REQUEST.

SO NOW WE'D LIKE TO HEAR YOUR REASON FOR DOING SO.

LET ME INTRO-DUCE MYSELF.

I'M THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF ASAHI MY NAME IS YAMAMURA.

HIRAI-SAN...

ASAHI HAS THE INNOVATIVE POTENTIAL TO BE AT THE TOP OF THE INDUSTRY, SO WHY HAS BUSINESS BEEN SO SLOW?

IT'S BECAUSE THE PEOPLE GATHERED BEFORE ME ARE LACKING IN BUSINESS ACUMEN.

...
..

THE REASON IS SIMPLE

IT'S BECAUSE I, AS A SHAREHOLDER, COULD NO LONGER STAND THE OUTRIGHT MISMANAGEMENT GOING ON AMONGST ASAHI'S LEADERSHIP.

...
...

ASAHI WON'T HAVE THE STRENGTH TO CHANGE COURSE. THIS COMPANY NEEDS OUTSIDE BLOOD TO GROW STRONGER.

AS LONG AS PEOPLE LIKE THAT ARE INFECTING THIS COMPANY...

BRO-KER!!

THAT'S A PACK OF LIES ...

ぶわ...

...
...

SO I CAME HERE AS THE SHAREHOLDER REPRESENTATIVE TO INFORM YOU THAT WE HAVE CHOSEN TO ELECT NEW MANAGEMENT FROM AMONGST OURSELVES.

DO YOU REALLY THINK PEOPLE LIKE *YOU* CAN HANDLE IT?

FIRST OF ALL, MANAGING A COMPANY ISN'T EASY!

HEH HEH HEH ..

WE DON'T HAVE TO SIT HERE AND LISTEN TO THIS THUG'S NONSENSE!

SIR ...

MUKAI-KUN!

AM I WRONG, HIRAI-SAN?

HE JUST WANTS TO SELL HIS STOCKS FOR THE HIGHEST PRICE HE CAN GET!

MANAGING DIRECTOR MUKAI.

MAYBE I SHOULD BE THE ONE ASKING YOU THAT QUESTION...

IN THE THREE YEARS SINCE THIS PROJECT STARTED, OVER TWENTY-FIVE BILLION YEN HAS BEEN INVESTED IN IT. BUT IT HAS YET TO TURN A PROFIT.

I'M REFERING TO THE SINGAPORE PROJECT IN ASAHI'S OVERSEAS DIVISION.

W-WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

THE ONE *YOU'RE* IN CHARGE OF.

DO YOU NOT HAVE THE *SLIGHTEST* INTEREST IN MAKING THIS PROJECT PROFITABLE?

MUKAI ..

WORSE THAN THAT, IT'S A DRAIN ON RESOURCES!

NO ...

IT'S COMPLE-TELY IN THE RED!

..
...

URGH ...

IF YOU HAVE A PLAN, I'D LIKE TO HEAR IT!

AND IT'S ALL THANKS TO THE INVESTIGATING TATSUMI-SAN DID ONSITE.

THAT WAS A VITAL HIT AGAINST "MANAGING DIRECTOR" MUKAI..

HE'S SO FLUSTERED HE CAN'T EVEN THINK OF WHAT TO SAY.

HEH HEH .

..
...

THIS IS NEITHER THE TIME NOR PLACE FOR A WITCH HUNT!

FOR EXAMPLE, BUSINESS EXPENSES

THERE ARE OTHERS THAT HAVE—

DIRECTOR MUKAI ISN'T THE ONLY PROBLEM.

ENOUGH!

WOULDN'T YOU AGREE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR YOSHIOKA?

I'M SURE THERE ARE MANY HERE THAT HAVE USED THE RECENT CHAOS TO THEIR OWN ADVANTAGE

FINDING THAT OUT WAS SOME GREAT DETECTIVE WORK BY YASUDA-SAN!

YOU'RE EVEN WORSE THAN MUKAI!

HA HA, DUMB-ASS!

YOU'VE BEEN PAYING FOR YOUR MISTRESS'S PLACE OUTSIDE TOKYO BY FAKING EXPENSE REPORTS.

WELL..

UM..

AHHH

ざわ・・

ざわ・

EARLIER, I THOUGHT THEY WERE INVINCIBLE AS LONG AS THEY PUT UP A UNITED FRONT AGAINST THE ENEMY.

EVERY-THING'S GOING JUST AS GIN-SAN WANTS IT!

HEH HEH ...

...
...

ALL THE STUFF THAT WOULD RUIN THEM IF IT WENT PUBLIC.

MUST BE TERRIFIED, THINKING GIN-SAN KNOWS ALL THEIR DIRTY LITTLE SECRETS.

RIGHT NOW, THOSE EXECU-TIVES...

ざわ..

THIS WAS ALL A PART OF GIN-SAN'S PLAN!

BUT NOW I KNOW ...

TYPICAL WHITE COLLAR WORKERS!

THEY'RE ALL TOO BUSY THINKING ABOUT HOW TO PROTECT THEMSELVES TO WORRY ABOUT THE ENEMY IN FRONT OF THEM.

NOT A SINGLE ONE OF THEM CAN STAND AGAINST GIN-SAN!

AND NOW THAT THE SEEDS OF PARANOIA HAVE BEEN SOWN..

IS WORTH MORE THAN MONEY ITSELF!

GIN-SAN'S SKILL WITH WORDS ...

BUT IT'S JUST BLANK PAPER!

I'M SURE WHEN THEY LOOK AT THE BAG I'M HOLDING...

THEY MUST THINK IT'S JAM-PACKED WITH ALL SORTS OF SCANDALOUS DATA.

SIR ...

IT APPEARS YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE I CAN HAVE AN HONEST CONVERSATION WITH.

I WAS WONDERING ..

IF YOU'D BE WILLING TO MEET AGAIN THIS EVENING.

I'D LIKE YOU TO MEET MY BACKER.

BACKER?

HE GAVE ME THIS LETTER FOR YOU.

PLEASE READ IT.

WHAT?!

Oo.

WHO COULD~ POSSIBLY BE BACKING HIM?

...

Oou

THAT'S... NOT POSSIBLE!

TEIJI- TSU?!

帝国銀行頭取

土門

猛

THAT NIGHT ...

WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS?!

DOMON -SAN!

I MET HIRAI-SAN SEVERAL DAYS AGO... AND HE INTRODUCED US TO AN INTERESTED PARTY.

AND WHO WAS THAT?

IT WASN'T SOMETHING WE PLANNED TO DO.

TEIJITSU IS ASAHI'S MAIN BANK! HOW CAN IT BE SUPPORTING THE SPECULATORS!

WELL ...

I'M HERE TONIGHT TO ACT AS A MEDIATOR...

YAMAMURA -SAN, IT'S A PLEASURE TO MEET YOU.

I'M IWAZA, FROM THE LPJ

IWAZA ATSUSHI OF THE LPJ!

HUH?

WOULDN'T IT BE BETTER FOR ASAHI TO SETTLE THIS PEACE-FULLY?

INSTEAD OF CONTINUING TO WORRY ABOUT THE 30% OF STOCKS IN THE HANDS OF THE SPECULATORS..

WOULD YOU ALLOW ME TO HELP YOU REACH AN EQUITABLE AGREEMENT?

HUH?

1600 YEN..

WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO BUY IT BACK FOR 1600?

THE STOCK IS CURRENTLY WORTH 1800 YEN PER SHARE...

AND TEIJITSU IS WILLING TO LOAN YOU THE MONEY.

HIRAI-SAN HAS ALREADY AGREED TO THOSE TERMS.

THANKS TO THE NEGOTI-ATIONS THAT EVEN-ING...

IT MUST BE BETTER THAN A DRAWN OUT FIGHT.

EVEN IF IT'S NOT QUITE IDEAL...

WHAT DO YOU SAY?

ASAHI BOUGHT THE STOCKS BACK...

FOR 1600 YEN A PIECE!

BOTH TEIJITSU AND IWAZA..

THEY TRIED TO MAKE IT SOUND NICE, BUT ALL THEY REALLY DID WAS THROW ASAHI TO THE WOLVES...

HEH HEH, PRETTY MUCH

THOSE GUYS...

BEST TO LET TEIJITSU AND IWAZA BELIEVE THEY CAME OUT AHEAD IN THE END.

THAT'S FINE.

WEREN'T THEY VALUED AT 1800?

BUT WHY DID WE ACCEPT THE STOCKS AT 1600? THAT'S A LOSS!

AND THEN THERE'S TEIJITSU

HE'LL RISE TO THE TOP OF THIS COUNTRY SOMEDAY..

IWAZA IS THE FUTURE

WE'LL THROW THEM ALL THE BONES THEY WANT

GAIN'NG TWO STRONG PIECES LIKE THAT IS MORE THAN ENOUGH.

PROSPEROUS TIMES WILL RETURN TO THIS COUNTRY. ONE DAY

PREPAR- ATION FOR WHAT?

THIS IS ALL PREPAR- ATION

HUH

LOSING FIVE HUNDRED MILLION TO A BILLION IN THIS SPECULATION WAR IS NOTHING

A TIME WHEN THE
ANCE OF LAND
AND STOCKS
L INACTUALLY
BOILOVER

GAIN ENOUGH MONEY TO BUY AN ENTIRE COUNTRY!

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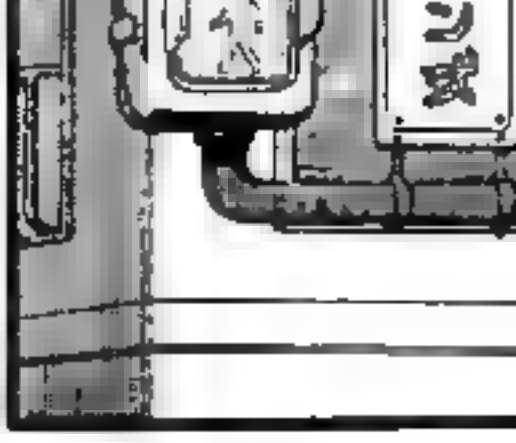
第15話

GREAT EVIL SLEEPS!


柳ポタンセ式

武西高学校

ス・・

IF YOU TRIED, YOU'D UNDERSTAND IT, TOO, GIN-SAN.

BUT...

THAT'S NOT TOO OFF BASE, I SUPPOSE

I'LL CONFESS, WHEN YOU FIRST STARTED, I THOUGHT, "THERE GOES HIROSE-SAN, TRYING ONE OF H S CRAZY IDEAS AGAIN."

SEEMS LIKE THINGS ARE GOING WELL.

....?

I FEEL LIKE I'VE FINALLY GAINED SOMETHING I COULD NEVER REACH IN ALL MY YEARS OF CHASING MONEY.

FUL-FILLING?

HOW FULFILLING IT IS ..

THOSE CHILDREN TRUST ME COMP-LETELY.

WHEN I LEAD THEM BY THE HAND...

TRUST.

THE FAITH RADIATING FROM THEIR SMALL HANDS TO MY OWN.

I CAN FEEL IT.

THAT RESPONSE...

...

...

I SEE.

...

...

...IS SOMETHING MONEY CAN'T BUY.

...

...

NO MATTER HOW MUCH MONEY YOU HAVE.

YOU ACTUALLY FOUND ONE ?!

SEEMS SO

DO YOU THINK YOU COULD GET IN TOUCH WITH THE OLD MAN FOR ME ?

HUH ?

WELL

HIS "BODY" IS PERFECT

HMMM

HE MATCHES THE OLD MAN'S DESCRIPTIONS PERFECTLY

I'D LIKE TO SEE FOR MYSELF

BEFORE I GET THE OLD MAN INVOLVED ...

MIND IF I TRY HIM OUT MYSELF?

"TRY HIM OUT"?

.YEP.

IN OTHER WORDS, A MAN YOU CAN RELY ON.

HE'S AS RELIABLE AS YOU SAY HE IS.

I WANT TO MAKE SURE...

ISN'T MY HEART, OR MY GOOD INTENTIONS.

BUT THE SOURCE OF THAT FAITH...

IT'S MY EYE-SIGHT!

IT'S JUST, LIKE WHAT I WAS TALKING ABOUT EARLIER, WITH THOSE CHILDREN

HOW I *KNOW* THEY HAVE FAITH IN ME.

I'M NOT SAYING HE'LL BETRAY YOUR EXPECT-ATIONS!

DON'T MISUNDER-STAND ME!

YOU UNDER-STAND, RIGHT, GIN-SAN?

SO I WANT TO TEST THE ABILITY OF THIS YOUNG MAN.

IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW GOOD A PERSON YOU ARE, WITHOUT THAT ABILITY, YOU CAN'T LEAD THOSE CHILDREN.

IN OTHER WORDS, MY ABILITY TO SEE!

RIGHT NOW, I'VE GOT THE PERFECT JOB TO DO IT.

HIS ABILITY, HUH?

LET'S SEE WHAT THIS YOUNG MAN OF YOURS IS REALLY MADE OF!

SAY THE WORD AND I CAN GET HIM IN.

JUST THE JOB TO REALLY TEST A PERSON'S TRUE METTLE!

PLEASE, GIN-SAN!

THE NEXT DAY

POLICE DEPARTMENT

THANK YOU FOR COMING

"CLICK"

UM, IT'S MORITA.

GIN-SAN TOLD YOU I WOULD BE HERE?

COME INS DE

I'LL GO AHEAD AND FILL YOU IN

OKAY

AND THAT YOU NEEDED HELP.

HE JUST SAID TO SHOW UP AT THIS LOCATION

WE DO.

NO

DID HE TELL YOU WHY YOU'RE HERE?

IT'S NOTHING COMPLICATED.

THANKS.
TAKE A SEAT

BUT WE'LL PROBABLY END UP KEEPING HIM A FEW DAYS OR SO.
WE'RE STILL WAITING ON THE ORDERS FROM ABOVE...

RIGHT NOW, WE'RE HOLDING A MAN IN THAT ROOM OVER THERE.

HAS BEEN ON A MANHUNT FOR THE MAN AT THE CENTER OF A KILLING SPREE .

THAT TOOK THE LIVES OF SEVEN WOMEN AND CHILDREN

SINCE THE END OF LAST YEAR, THE ENTIRE KANTO REGION ..

THE ONLY DIFFICULT PART IS THE GUY IN QUESTION.

MASS-MURDERER AIGA KENJI!

THE MAN THE METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT IS STAKING THEIR REPUTATION ON CAPTURING.

HE LIKED TO CARVE HIS VICTIMS UP WHILE THEY WERE STILL ALIVE.

AND IT DOESN'T STOP AT MURDER. .

ARE YOU SERIOUS?

A REAL FREAK.

HE FELL RIGHT INTO OUR LAPS.

AND JUST BY COINCIDENCE ..

...
...

A MONSTER BEYOND THE COMPREHENSION OF NORMAL PEOPLE.

THEY PLAN ON USING HIM TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE AUTHORITIES.

THE HEAD HOUSE WAS THRILLED TO GET SUCH A POWERFUL BARGAINING CHIP.

HAS BABYSITTING DUTY.

OUR BRANCH OF THE FAMILY...

UNTIL EVERY-THING S HAMMERED OUT..

THERE ARE SOME OF OUR LEADERS IN PRISON THAT WE'D LIKE TO GET OUT ON PAROLE.

A FEW NEW LAWS THAT WE DON'T EXACTLY TAKE TO. ALL SORTS OF THINGS

I SEE

SO WE'RE KEEPING H M LOCKED UP FOR NOW

BUT THE HEAD HOUSE SA D IT WAS A NO GO BECAUSE HE WAS TOO VALUABLE A TOOL FOR THE DEAL WITH THE COPS

ONE PERSON KEEPS AN EYE ON HIM AT ALL TIMES..

IT'D BE EASIEST TO JUST INCAPACITATE HIM.

SO WHAT WE NEED ARE PEOPLE TO WATCH HIM.

BUT THERE WILL BE FOUR OR FIVE PEOPLE OUTSIDE AT ALL TIMES

YES, YOU'LL BE ALONE IN THE ROOM WITH HIM...

IT'S NOT AS BAD AS IT SOUNDS.

DON'T WORRY

WE'VE GOT PERFECT SAFE-GUARDS IN PLACE.

THAT'S RIGHT.

YOU MEAN...?

YOU'LL ALL SWITCH OFF EVERY HOUR

AND YOU WON'T BE THE ONLY ONE WATCHING HIM.

SO IT WON'T BE A TOUGH JOB, REALLY.

WE'LL ALSO PROVIDE A HANDGUN, THOUGH WE'D LIKE YOU TO AVO D USING IT.

IF SOMETHING HAPPENS, JUST POUND ON THE DOOR

GIN-SAN'S IN THERE?

HUH?!

IS YOUR ASSOCIATE, HIRAI-SAN.

THE PERSON IN THERE RIGHT NOW.

IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE HE WENT IN. WHY DON'T WE HAVE YOU RELIEVE HIM?

OH...

THIS ROOM IS COMPLETELY SOUNDPROOF, SO DON'T WORRY ABOUT ANY OF THE NEIGHBORS HEARING IT.

BUT DON'T HESITATE TO FIRE IF YOU HAVE TO.

THERE'S ONLY ONE BULLET...

...
...

IN AN HOUR, SOMEONE SHOULD COME TO REPLACE YOU.

I'LL SEE YOU LATER ...

UM...

SO YOU'RE HERE ..

I'M COUNTING ON YOU, MORITA.

...
...

THIS...
IS
AIGA?

NO WAY HE COULD OVERPOWER THEM.

THERE ARE FOUR OR FIVE GUYS WAITING OUTSIDE.

SO THERE'S NO POINT IN EVEN TRYING.

IT WOULDN'T DO HIM ANY GOOD.

EVEN IF HE DID MANAGE TO KILL ME

PLUS, I'VE GOT A GUN!

カチッ!

ドキ

カチャ

IT ISN'T LOADED!

ドキ

ドキ

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?

SO I'M FACING HIM WITH NOTHING TO DEFEND MYSELF WITH!

THIS GUN WAS ALWAYS INTENDED TO BE A PROP TO SCARE AIGA.

WHICH MEANS

ドキ

THERE'S NO WAY GIN-SAN WOULD MAKE A MISTAKE THIS BIG.

ドキ

I JUST THOUGHT THERE WAS NO POINT IN KILLING ME... BUT WHO KNOWS IF HE SEES THINGS THE SAME WAY!

I WONDER WHAT HE WOULD DO IF HE KNEW THIS GUN WASN'T LOADED?

AIGA IS A MONSTER THAT WON'T HESISTATE TO KILL.

ONE OF THE MOST INFAMOUS SERIAL KILLERS OF OUR TIME...

HE TAKES PLEASURE IN MURDERING PEOPLE...

OUTSIDE THE LIMITS OF RATIONALITY.

A MAN THAT EXISTS...

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第16話

THE DEVIL'S SMILE

A MONSTER INVOLVED IN SEVEN MURDERS SINCE THE END OF LAST YEAR!

AM I GONNA BE OKAY?

...
...

THE ONLY THING HE CARRIES...

IS AN UNLOADED HANDGUN!

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF HE ATTACKS ME?

NO
...

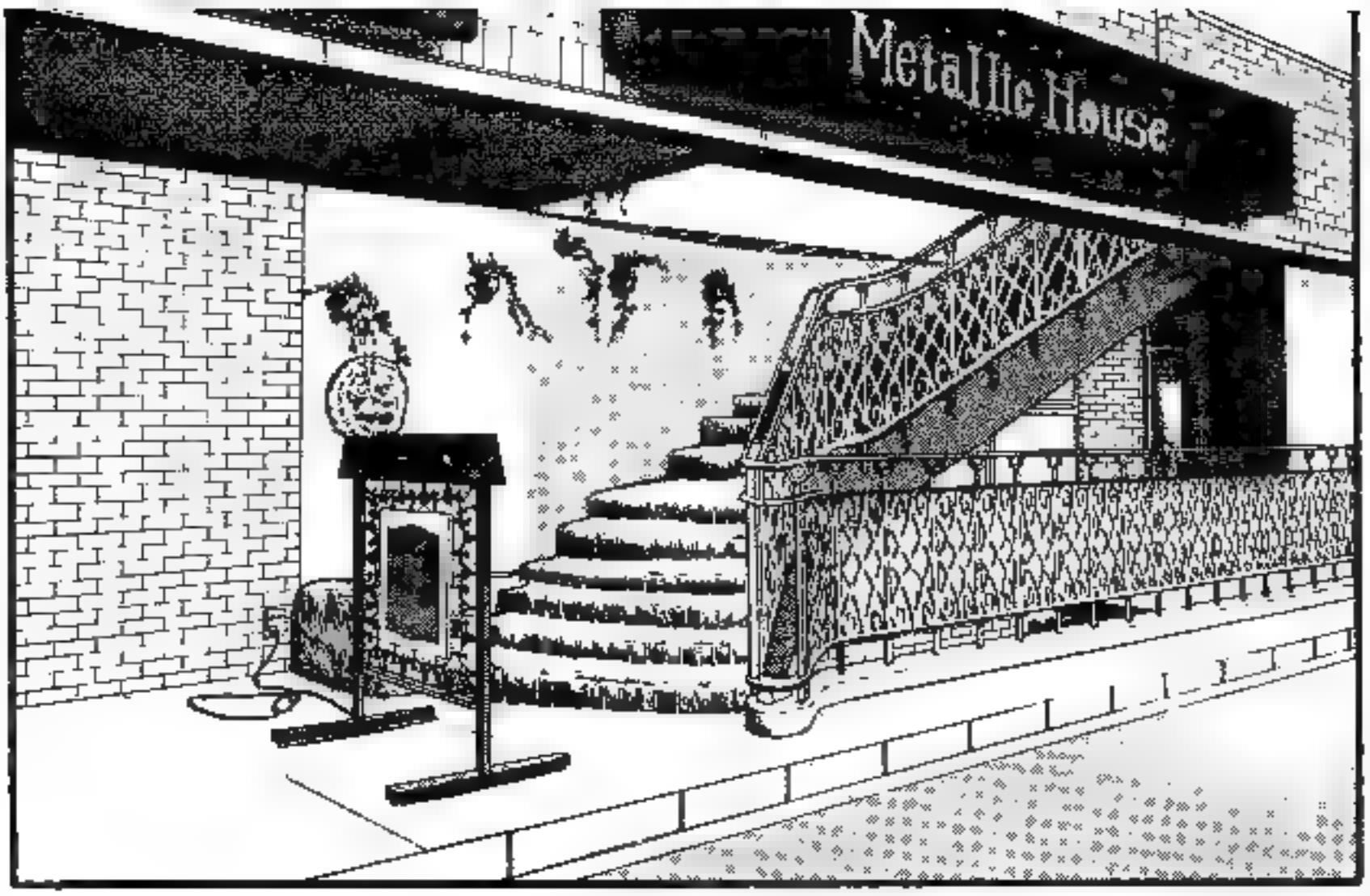
THIS ISN'T THE TIME TO PANIC!

THIS MUST BE GIN-SAN'S WAY OF TESTING SOMETHING ABOUT ME.

HAVE ALL DONE THE SAME THING I'M DOING RIGHT NOW.

GIN-SAN AND THE GUYS OUTSIDE...

SO I CAN'T BACK DOWN!



EVEN ONE MORE PERSON IS A HUGE HELP.

YOU'RE DOING *US* A FAVOR.

NO, NOT AT ALL.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR TAKING MORITA ON SUCH SHORT NOTICE.

HERE.

SO WE'VE NEVER TAKEN ON A BIG NEGOTIATION LIKE THIS BEFORE.

WE'RE A SMALL OPERATION.

I HAD NO IDEA WHAT WE WERE GOING TO DO.

TO BE HONEST ...

SO WE HAD TO SETTLE FOR STRENGTH IN UNARMED NUMBERS.

WE COULD NEVER ALLOW THAT TO HAPPEN TO OUR PRECIOUS "BAIT".

BUT THAT WOULD ALSO MAKE IT EASIER FOR AN ACCIDENT TO OCCUR.

IT WOULD HAVE BEEN BEST TO HAVE A TEAM OF MEN WITH GUNS...

WE DIDN'T WANT ANY OF OUR YOUNG MEN TO SHOOT AIGA IN THE HEAT OF THE MOMENT

BUT THE GUARD ROTATION MADE IT HARD TO GIVE THEM TIME TO TAKE BREAKS.

AT FIRST WE WERE GOING TO HAVE TWO PEOPLE GUARDING HIM AT THE SAME TIME.

IT CAN'T BE USED TO KILL ANYONE.

BUT IF HE GOT AHOLD OF IT, NOTHING WOULD HAPPEN.

THAT WAY, WE'D STILL BE SEEN AS A THREAT FROM AIGA'S PERSPECTIVE...

HE'S THE ONE THAT SUGGESTED THE UNLOADED GUN.

I HAVE TO THANK HIROSE-SAN FOR SOLVING OUR PROBLEM.

I WON-DER...

CLEAR AND SIMPLE, HUH, GIN-SAN?

USING IT, EVEN ONE PERSON IS ENOUGH TO GUARD AIGA.

THAT IDEA WAS A REAL LIFESAVER

IF I HAD A FEW SLEEPLESS DAYS ALONE WITH THAT MONSTER.

I THINK SOMETHING WOULD DEFINITELY GO WRONG ...

HEH HEH ..

IF YOU CAN DO THAT..

IT'S NOT A VERY DIFFICULT JOB.

THE VERY SECOND YOU MAKE A MISTAKE WHILE HOLDING A WEAPON, THAT WEAPON IS AS GOOD AS AIGA'S.

THAT'S WHAT YOU HAVE TO AVOID AT ALL COSTS.

I DO AGREE WITH WATCHING HIM UNARMED.

BUT ...

...
...

THEY'D BE SITTING DUCKS.

HEH HEH ..

AND YOUR GUYS AS A PACK OF AMATEURS.

YOU CAN THINK OF AIGA AS A PROFESSIONAL MURDERER ...

WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF AIGA DID MANAGE TO ARM HIMSELF?

THEN ...

HMM?

IF HE'S GOT A WEAPON!

THERE'S NOT A SINGLE ONE OF THEM THAT CAN STAND UP TO AIGA...

WITH AIGA'S EXPERIENCE, NONE OF THEM WOULD BE A THREAT TO HIM!

THEY'D BE PARALYZED.

UNABLE TO MOVE A MUSCLE!

AIGA WOULD KILL THEM ALL.

THEY'D BE NOTHING BUT PREY!

EXCUSE ME FOR A MOMENT

NNNN

Jy..

YES, I UNDERSTAND, SIR.

YES.

I WILL ..

WHAT'S UP?

HAS HE LOST HIS MIND?!

SHIT!

THAT'S NUTS!

NO WAY WE CAN DO THAT!

ARE YOU KIDDING?!

HE WANTS US TO GUARD AIGA EMPTY-HANDED!

HE SAID THE ONLY WEAPON WE CAN CARRY IS THE UNLOADED HANDGUN!

WHAT?

OF COURSE WE ARE!

ARE ALL OF YOU ARMED?

EXCUSE ME?

...
...

WHAT?

YOU EXPECT US TO GUARD AIGA WITHOUT ANY PROTECTION?

EVEN YOKOKAWA IS IN THERE WITH A KNIFE HIDDEN IN HIS JACKET RIGHT NOW.

...
...

WE DON'T WANT TO MAKE THE LIST OF HIS VICTIMS, THANKS!

LIKE HELL WE'D SIT IN A SOUND-PROOF ROOM WITH A FREAK LIKE THAT WITHOUT WEAPONS!

THAT AIGA'S NOT SOME PUNK KID. IF WE SHOW ANY WEAKNESS, HE'LL TRY TO KILL US!

ざわ・・

...
...
..

I UNDERSTAND WHAT THEY'RE SAYING, BUT

IF THEY'RE THINKING THEY CAN BEAT AN ARMED AIGA..

Oo

THEY'LL WIND UP..

MORITA HAD A BAD PREMONITION

AT THAT MOMENT

ざわ・・

...
...

ざわ

AIGA'S GOT US TOTALLY OUTCLASSED.

WHEN IT COMES TO SOMETHING LIKE THAT..!

DEAD!

HEY...

THEY LEFT, DIDN'T THEY?

HUH?

THAT MAN NAMED HIRAI AND YOUR BOSS...

BOTH OF THEM ARE GONE!

"HOW DID YOU KNOW?"

"HOW"

...
...

HOW...?

U.S.AR

ス!!...

...
...

ARE THE BABIES ...

THAT MEANS ALL THAT'S LEFT...

THAT'S... WONDER-FUL NEWS

HEH HEH ..

...
...

INFANTS ...

CHILD-REN...

STAY
...

...
...

STAY BACK!

I'LL SHOOT!

IF YOU GET ANY CLOSER...

HEH HEH HEH
..

I TOLD YOU TO STAY BACK!

NONE OF THE OTHERS HAVE ONE, SO IT WOULDN'T HELP IF I KILLED THEM...

TOO BAD YOU WERE WEARING A HAT..

LITTLE BABY...

...
...

^T...

YOU WOULDN'T HAVE TO BE THE FIRST TO DIE...

IF YOU WEREN'T WEARING IT...

AND I'LL KILL YOU!

SAY ONE MORE WORD...

US ARMY

SHUT YOUR FUCKING MOUTH!

IT ISN'T LOADED.

AHH!

HEH HEH

I COULD TELL!

THE VERY SECOND YOU STOOD UP

WITH YOUR LEFT HAND, ISN'T IT?

IT'S HARD TO REACH INTO THE LEFT POCKET OF YOUR JACKET

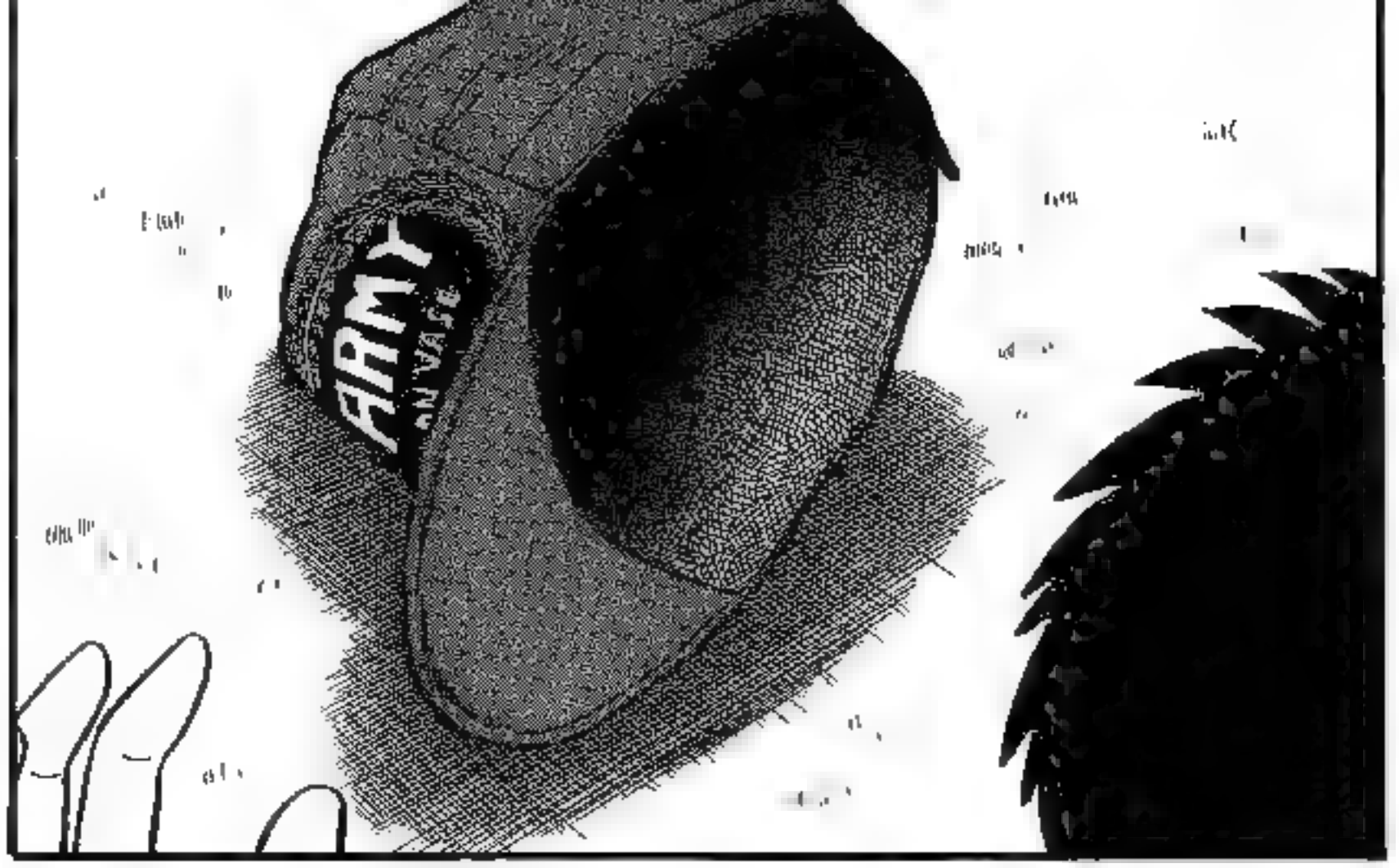
HEH HEH HEH

EEEE!

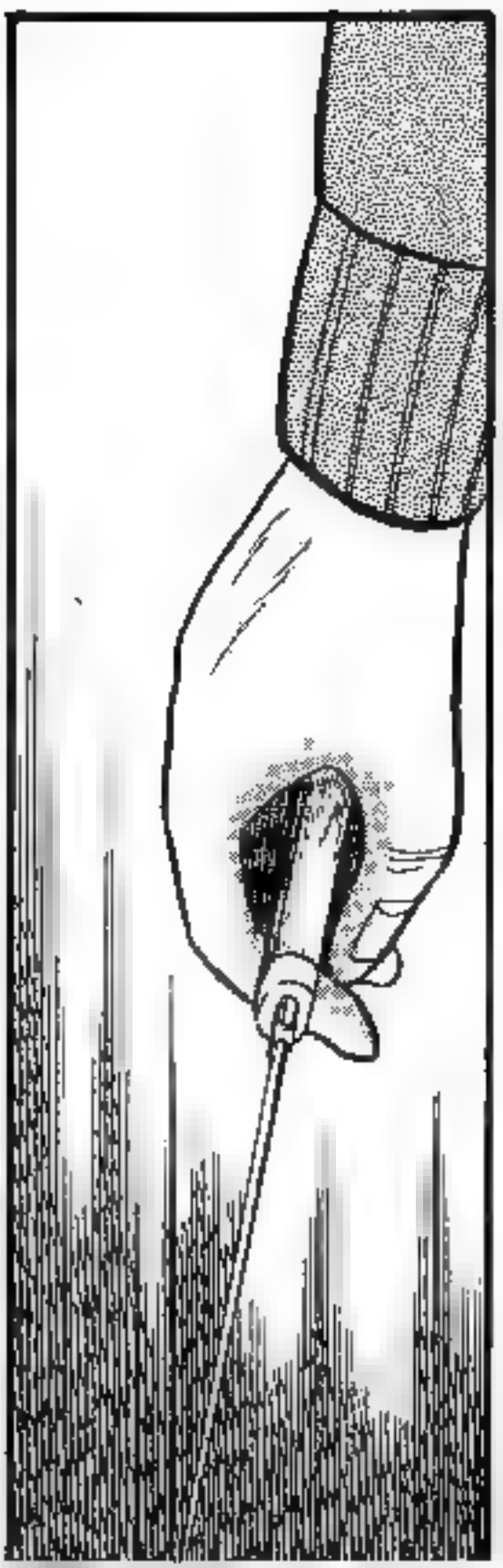
SPLASH!

USARMY

U.S. ARMY


ARMY

HEH
HEH
HEH
...
US
YOMI
銀と金◆第⑯話◆完



US Army

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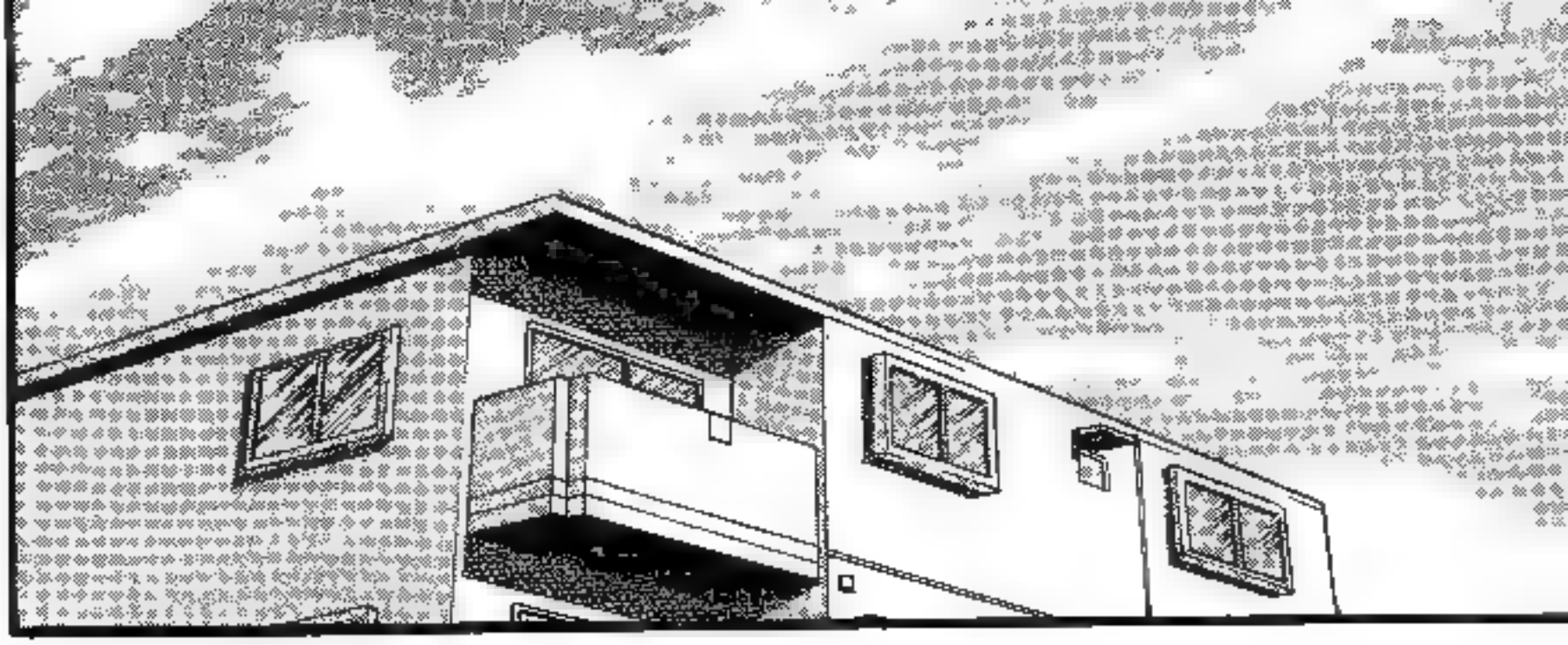
第17話

THE WORLD OF THE PITCH-BLACK MAZE



GUESS IT'S ABOUT TIME TO SWITCH.
WELL ...

フ…

SO I'LL DO HIM A LITTLE FAVOR

I KNOW IT'S A KNDA EARLY, BUT YOKOKAWA'S PROBABLY PISSED HIMSELF BY NOW.

HA HA

RIGHT NOW.

AND ONE IS ABOUT TO ENTER AIGA'S ROOM, LEAVING FOUR OUTSIDE.

YOKOKAWA IS DEAD IN THE NEXT ROOM.

THE ONLY ONE WITH A LOADED GUN IS KITAYAMA.

BUT THEY'RE ALL KNIVES OF VARYING LENGTH.

OF THE FOUR, ONLY MORITA IS UNARMED. THE REST ALL HAVE WEAPONS

THIS IS THE WORST POSSIBLE OUTCOME!

RMY

AN VASE

チラ

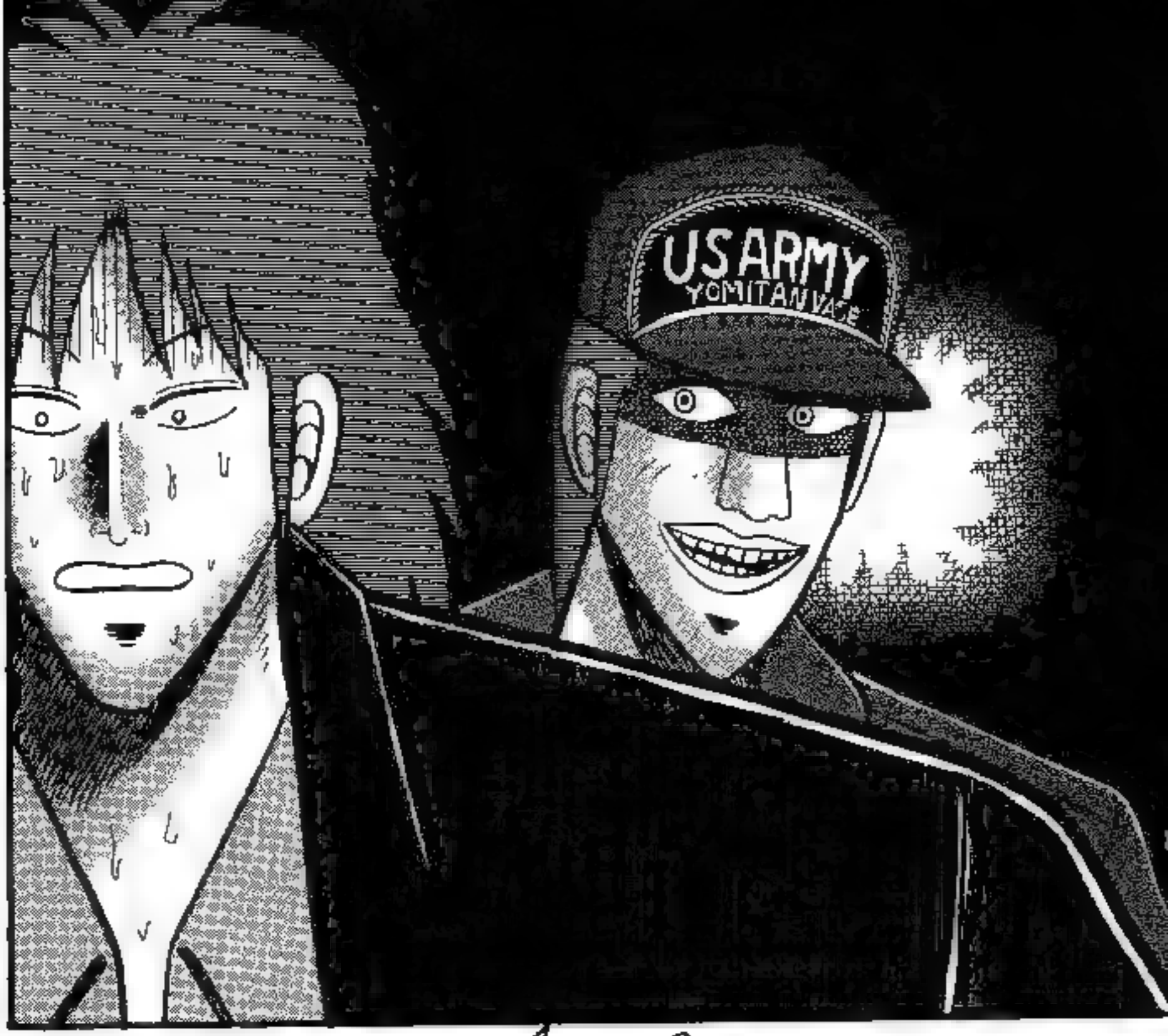
AND NO ONE HAS REAL-IZED IT YET.

FUCKING AIGA...

HUH? SLEEPING *AGAIN*?

HUH, YOKOKAWA?

YOU SURE HAD AN EASY SHIFT THIS TIME...


US ARMY
YOMITAN VACE

MMMOH!
MMOH!

ガ"
ク
ガ"
U.S.ARMY
ぴゅう
…
…
U.S.ARMY
HEH
HEH
HEH
..
Dad
ドオン!!
I'VE WANTED ONE OF THESE...
HEH
HEH
HEH
...
WHEN YOU WERE CARRYING SOMETHING THIS IMPORTANT.
HOW STUPID OF YOU TO TURN YOUR BACK ON ME...
WHAT ELSE COULD I DO?

AT THE SAME TIME ...

HMM?

GIN-SAN?

CAN I ASK YOU A QUESTION ...

MMM ...

RIGHT NOW, HE ISN'T ANYONE IN PARTICULAR ...

HEH HEH ...

WHO IS THAT MORITA KID?

HUH?

IN THE NEAR FUTURE..

IF WE CAN CLEAR A FEW MORE HURDLES...

BUT ...

REALLY?

...
..

A *LOT* OF MONEY FROM A CERTAIN OLD MAN, THE SECOND IN COMMAND OF A PARTICULAR COUNTRY.

HE MIGHT BE IN THE POSITION TO INHERIT

HE COMES FROM AN ORDINARY LOWER-CLASS BACKGROUND.

NO, NOTHING LIKE THAT.

HEH HEH ...

SO, IS HE THE BASTARD SON OF SOME BIGWIG?

?

THE REST IS TOP SECRET. SORRY.

HEH HEH .. WELL ...

HE JUST HAPPENED TO CLEAR ..

SOME OF THE OLD MAN'S STRICTEST CRITERIA.

BUT...

MEAN-WHILE .

WITH THE RIGHT TRAINING, HE'LL BE THE STRONGEST CARD I HOLD.

?...

I WILL SAY THIS.

OF THIS COUNTRY'S WEALTH!

WILL SHAKE THE VERY FOUND-ATIONS .

AND ONCE HE'S READY, THE TWO OF US, TOGETHER .

...

GOOD JOB IN THERE.

...

...?

FOCUSES ON FUNCTION A LION

THE ONLY THING AIBA NEEDS TO WORRY ABOUT, NOW THAT HE HAS A GUN, S BE NG SURPR SED FROM BEHIND.

WITH GOOD REASON.

AIBA DELIBERATELY AVO DS KILLING THEM RIGHT OFF THE BAT.

HE NEEDS TO AVOID THAT AT ALL COSTS

THEN THE ROOM HOLDING THE TOILET, AND THE ROOM WITH THE BATHTUB

SO FIRST HE MAKES SURE NO ONE IS IN THE BATHROOM FOYER

AND HE HAS A HANDGUN WITH 5 X BULLETS

USARMY

IN THE POCKET OF HIS JACKET, HE HAS A KNIFE

TAN VASE

NOW, HOW SHOULD I DO THIS?

I DON'T HAVE MANY BULLETS TO SPARE.

THERE WERE FOUR OF THEM.

JUST NOW...

THAT WAS AIGA...

THE WASHROOM, THE TOILET, AND THE SHOWER ROOM.

HE WASN'T GOING IN THERE TO USE THE BATHROOM.

THERE WAS THE SOUND OF A DOOR OPENING THREE TIMES.

DIDN'T YOU HEAR?

SHH!

HUH?!

...

HE WANTED TO MAKE SURE NO ONE WAS IN THERE!

HE WAS JUST LOOKING!

ガチャ

ざわ

UWAAAAAAH!!

ARMY
TAN YA'E

EEE!

WAAH!

AHHH!

USARMY

THIS GUN ISN'T JUST FOR SHOW

HEH HEH HEH

USA

K...

DON'T WORRY, RELAX.

HEH HEH ..

US ARMY

YOMITAN VASE

AAAH!

... ...

EEE ...

IF WE FIGHT, ALL OF US MIGHT DIE.

... ...

I'D LIKE TO AVOID THAT.

HUH?

...?

I'LL LET YOU GO.

DON'T LISTEN TO HIM!

... ...

ざわ…

... ...

THE ENTRYWAY IS A DEAD END... ONCE'S HE'S GOT YOU PACKED IN THERE, HE'LL SHOOT ALL OF YOU IN THE BACK!

EVEN IF HE SHOOTS, HIS AIM WILL BE OFF! HE'LL WASTE ALL OF HIS BULLETS, AND ONCE THAT HAPPENS...

WE'LL HAVE THE ADVAN-TAGE IN NUMBERS!

I'M SURE HE'S NEVER USED A GUN BEFORE!

HEH HEH ..

US ARMY

YOMITAN VILLAGE

US ARMY

ざわ・・・

...

AAAAAAAAH!!

NO!

THAT'S FINE.

YOU CAN CHOOSE TO DIE HERE, IF YOU'D LIKE!

HIII!

HEH HEH HEH ..

THE CHAIN IS ..

HURRY UP AND OPEN IT!

HEY, DON'T---!

..
...

NOT GOING TO TRY YOUR LUCK?

MY HANDS WON'T STOP SHAK-ING!

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING?!

EEE!

ARGH!

GYAAAH!

SO... YOU'RE NOT AS STUPID AS THE OTHERS...

HEH HEH HEH ...

U.S. ARMY

CAN SHOW GREAT STRENGTH WHEN CORNERED.

US ARMY

EVEN A RAT ..

UWAAAH!

AHHH!

IT WON'T THINK OF ANYTHING BUT FLEEING.

AAA AH!

AS LONG AS THE POSSIBILITY EXISTS, THE RAT WON'T FIGHT.

AAH!

ALL THAT NEEDS TO BE DONE IS GIVE IT A WAY TO ESCAPE.

AH!

IN ORDER TO AVOID THAT...

AND MAKE IT LOSE ITS WILL TO FIGHT!

THE WAY TO KILL A RAT IS GIVE IT HOPE!

ONE TO GO!

ARM!

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USARMY
THE LAST BULLET!

HEH
HEH
HEH
..

U.S ARMY

ONE
TO GO!

I'M
COUNTING
ON YOU,
MORITA.

WHAT WAS
THAT LITTLE
BOY'S NAME
AGAIN?

HEH
HEH
HEH
...

OH YES...
IT WAS
MORITA-
KUN...

#!!

RMY

HEH
HEH
HEH
..

WHERE COULD HE BE HIDING .
HMM
...

ハロウィン。。

ANOTHER ROOM?

USAPM

OR THE BATH-ROOM?

DOESN'T SEEM LIKE IT

IN THE WASH-ROOM?

HEH HEH HEH ..

HEH HEH

THAT BASTARD ..

HE WANTS TO MAKE SURE TO KILL ME TOO!

EVEN THOUGH THERE'S NOTHING STOPPING HIM FROM ESCAPING!

HE'S ACTUALLY LOOKING FOR ME!

FUCKING PSYCHO!

BEFORE HE GETS HERE!

IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME.

I'LL HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO FIGHT...

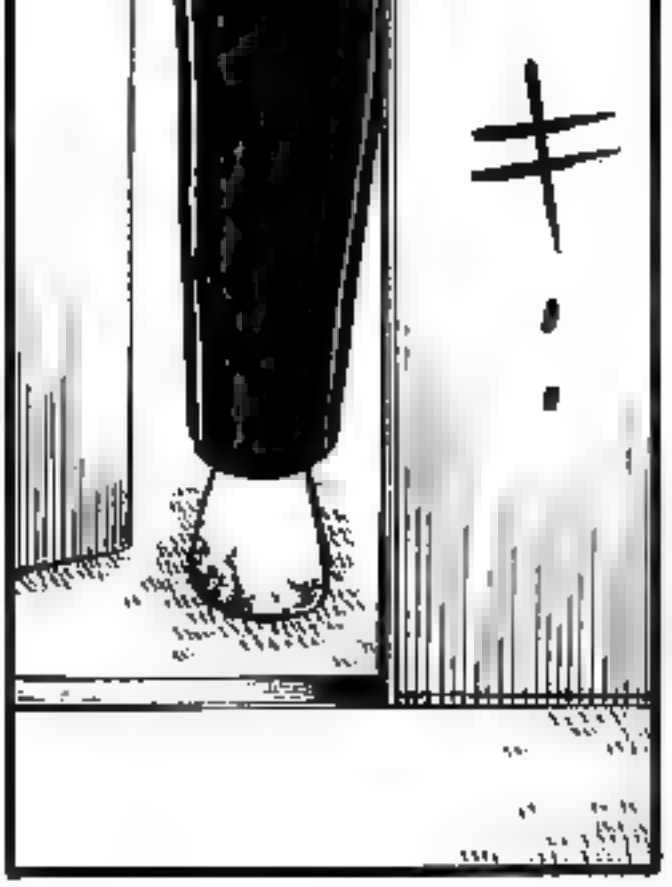
THAT MONSTER!

HE'LL KNOW I'M IN HERE.

ONCE HE FIGURES OUT I'M NOT IN THE OTHER ROOMS...

AIGA'S HERE!

IT'S HIM!



HE'S INSIDE!

THIS.. IS THE ONLY ROOM LEFT.

...
...

NOW WHERE COULD LITTLE MORITA BE HIDING?

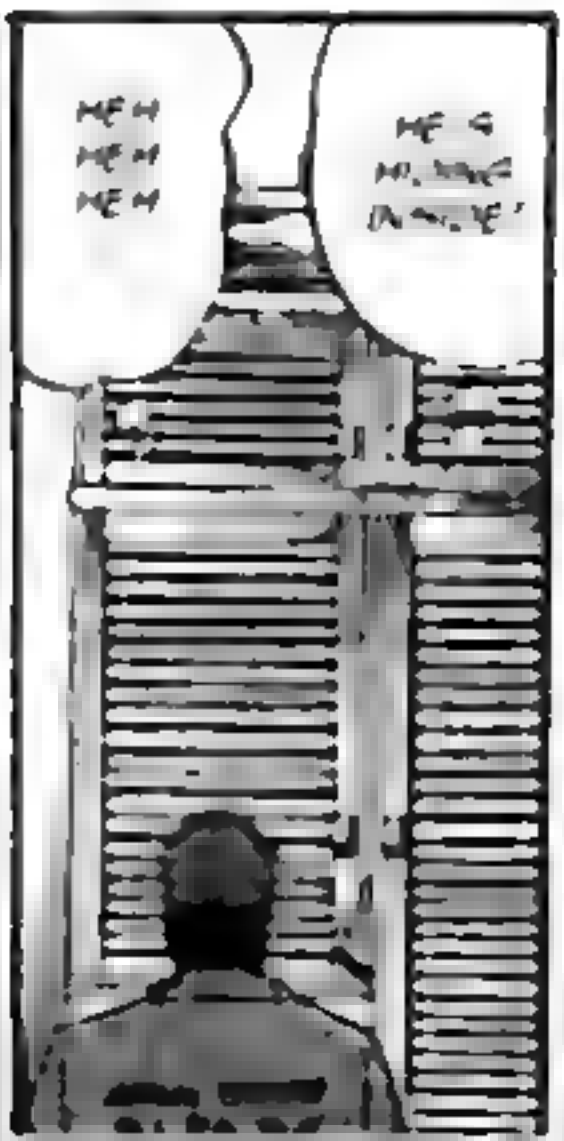
HMM?

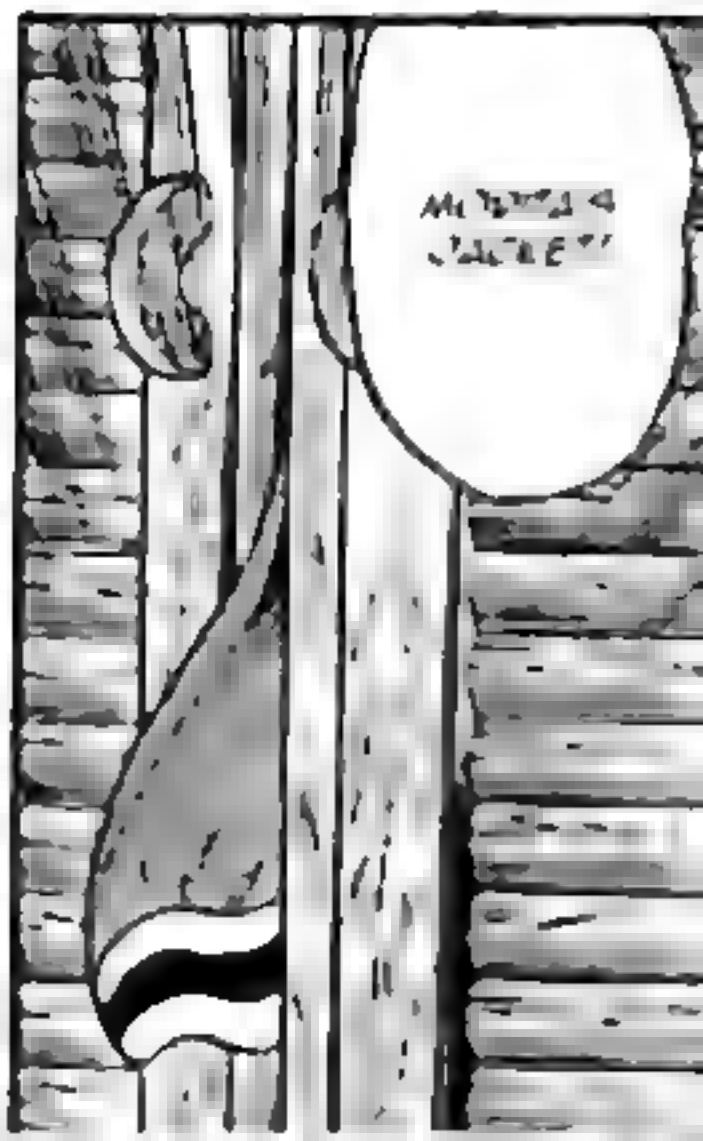
IS THAT ..

...
...

フ：

U.S.ARMY
THIS IS MY LAST BULLET


HE'S MISSING ON PURPOSE!


MURDER JUSTICE!!

HEH HEH ..

COME OUT, MORITA-KUN.

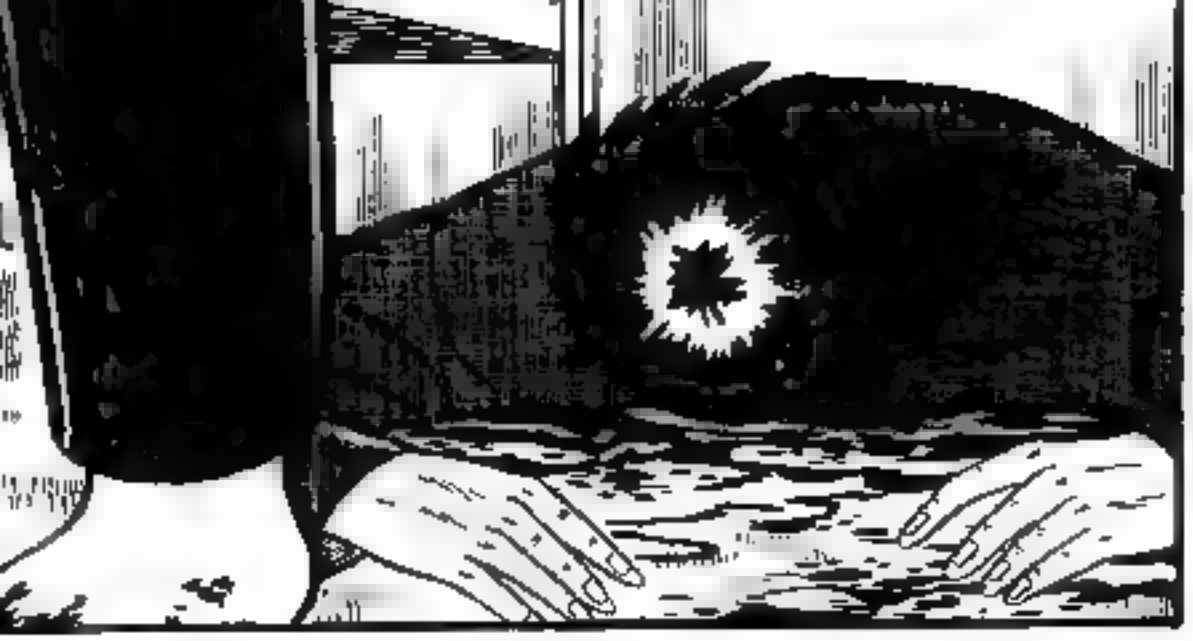
I DON'T NEED IT ANY MORE.

MIGHT AS WELL LEAVE THAT.

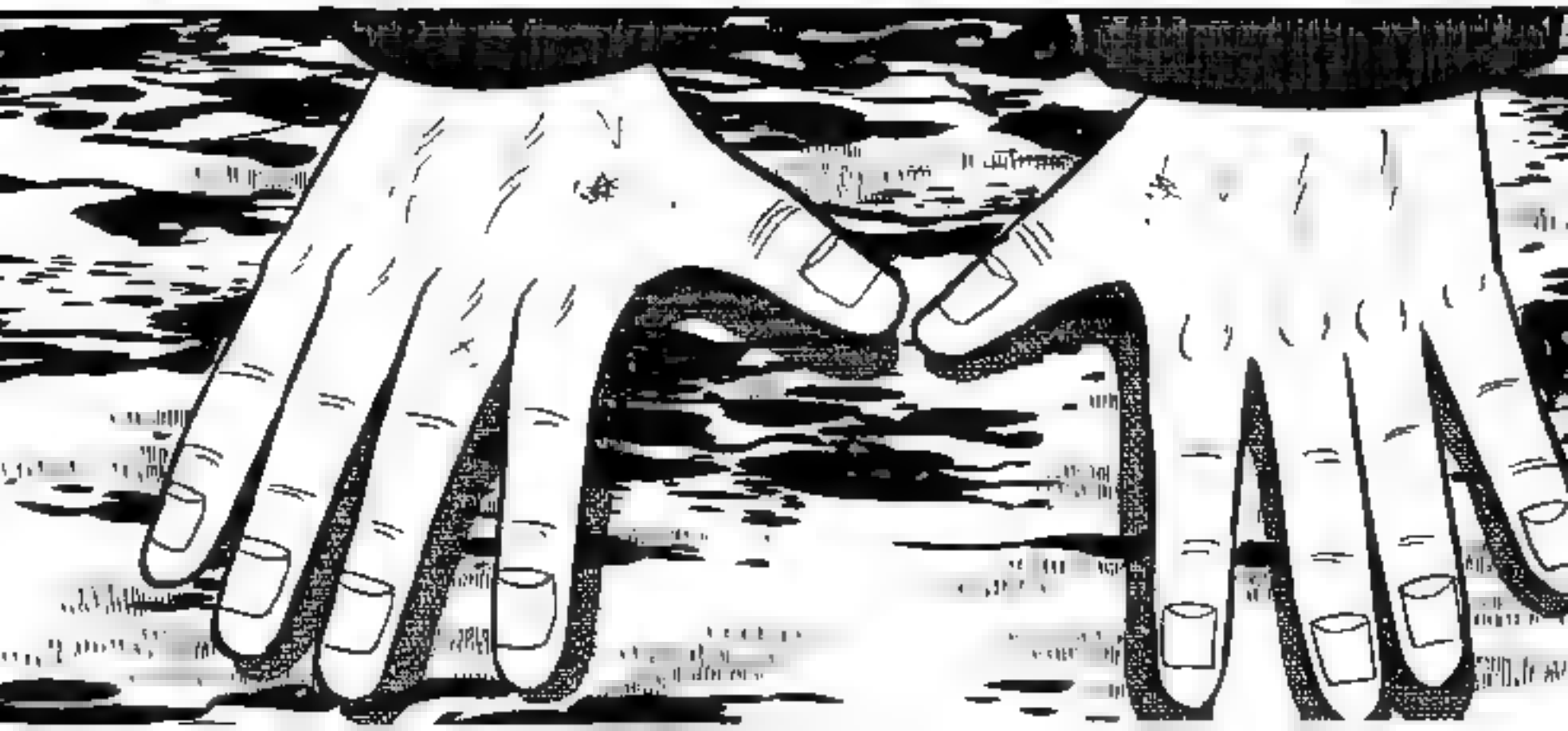
HEH HEH HEH ..

HEH HEH ...

DON'T WORRY, I'M NOT GOING TO HURT YOU ANY MORE...



HEH
HEH
HEH
...



SARMY
MITAN VASE

ONITAN VASE

RMY

ドゥルルル

YAAAAH!

UGK!

ハァ ハァ…

ドドドド

I SEE ..

HEH HEH ...

AND PRETENDED TO BE THE DEAD BODY...

YOU STUFFED THE CORPSE IN THE WARDROBE...

THAT WAS VERY SMART OF YOU.

MANAGING TO THINK OF AND CARRY OUT A TRICK LIKE THAT IN JUST A FEW MINUTES...

VERY CLEVER!

YOU ALMOST GOT ME!

WHEN YOU LET YOUR HAIR DOWN

IT'S ABOUT THE SAME LENGTH AS THE BODY'S YOU JUST NEEDED TO HIDE YOUR FACE

BUT...

HEH HEH

THAT MISTAKE WILL KILL YOU!

IT WAS A HUGE MISTAKE NOT TO KILL ME WHEN MY BACK WAS TURNED

UNFORTUNATELY YOU FUMBLED ON THE FOLLOW-THROUGH

I CAN'T WAIT TO SLICE YOU UP!

THERE'S ONLY ONE THING A LOSER LIKE HIM WILL THINK OF IN THIS SITUATION...

ESCAPE?

HEH HEH

HEH HEH HEH

ﾌﾌﾌ…

THAT'S THE EASIEST WAY TO KILL A KID LIKE HIM.

AND THEN I'LL ATTACK HIS DEFENSELESS BACK

HE'LL DEFINITELY RUN!

IF I USE THE [illegible] TO MAKE HIM BELIEVE HE HAS AN ESCAPE ROUTE

HE WENT FOR IT!

HEE HEE HEE!

ヒュン

URGH ...

.....

ﾌﾞｽｯ!!

MRGH!

...
...

AND MEN TRYING TO ESCAPE FROM YOU.

HAVE BEEN DEFENSE-LESS WOMEN AND CHILDREN ...

THE PEOPLE YOU'VE KILLED UP UNTIL THIS POINT...

...
...

I'M RIGHT, AREN'T I?

YOU'VE ALWAYS PRETENDED TO BE ONE OF THEIR ALLIES AND STABBED THEM IN THE BACK...

OR KILLED THEM AS THEY TRIED TO RUN AWAY...

YOU'VE NEVER KILLED SOMEONE IN AN EVEN FIGHT!

AND ALWAYS BY UNDERHANDED MEANS!

BUT I'M NOT RUNNING AWAY FROM YOU!

SORRY ...

...!

I'LL FIGHT!

銀と金◆第18話◆完